

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Environment Agency, keeping you up to date with our plans to manage flood risk in Rickerby and the surrounding area.

Managing flood risk in Rickerby

Since Storm Desmond in the winter 2015, we have been working hard with our partners and the local community to develop plans to reduce the risk of flooding to the community of Rickerby.

The Scheme

Earlier this year, the Environment Agency received planning permission from Carlisle City Council for the construction of new flood defences for Rickerby Village. The scheme will comprise of 400m of new flood defence walls, 100m of raised flood embankment along Brunstock Beck and a new alignment to Rickerby Park Road to prevent Brunstock Beck flowing along the road into the village.

When completed, the scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to 34 properties in Rickerby Village up to the water levels experienced during Storm Desmond in winter 2015.

Construction of the new defence falls within the buffer zone of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. Accordingly, our heritage specialists have consulted the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments covering the Hadrian's Wall WHS to ensure the scheme does not adversely affect the heritage of Hadrian's Wall.

Part of the scheme approved by planning involves re-routing Hadrian's wall path approximately 100 metres north of its current alignment. We are undertaking an archaeological investigation along this route to ensure any items of interest are recorded.

Progress update

Construction works commenced earlier this month, initially involving archaeological investigation in the field north of Rickerby Village. This location will be the site for our temporary site compound.

Following archaeological investigation, we will move onto construction of the new road which passes through the field to the north of Rickerby.



Above: Archaeological investigation currently underway

Upcoming activities

Following completion of archaeological investigation and road construction, our contractor VBA will establish a temporary access road through the rear of properties along Brunstock Beck and commence construction of the flood walls and embankments

Construction access

Construction access will be off the A689 through Linstock. There will be significant amounts of vehicle movements along this route throughout the construction period to deliver construction material and plant to site.

We will endeavour to avoid peak traffic times for deliveries and access through Rickerby Park will be maintained for the duration of the works for

pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. We will endeavour to keep this route clear of debris from our activities.

Our contractor will not be accessing construction working areas through Rickerby Gardens.

Programme

The project team are working hard to meet the following programme:

- *September 2019: Completion of archaeological investigation and preparation of site compound in the north field*
- *September - October 2019: Construction of new alignment for Rickerby Park Road*
- *September - October 2019: Construction of temporary access route behind Rickerby Gardens*
- *October 2019 - May 2020: Construction of flood walls and embankments to properties along Brunstock Beck and along the existing Rickerby Park Road*
- *May 2020: Removal of site compound and completion of works*

A significant amount of construction activity is weather dependant, however, we are sequencing our works to try and avoid these activities being undertaken during the wet winter periods.

Drop in event

On Thursday 5th September, we will be hosting an information drop-in from one of our support vehicles.

The drop-in will be an opportunity to view plans of the flood defence and construction access. There will also be an opportunity to discuss any questions you might have about the scheme with members of the project team.

We will be available at the following locations and times:

- *Linstock Village Green: 16:30-18:00*
- *Entrance to Rickerby Gardens: 18:30-20:00*

Please feel free to drop at any time at either of the locations.

Be prepared for flooding

It is also important to plan how you'll respond to a flood. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding> and use the template to make a personal or community wide flood action plan.

The community can find more information about funding flood risk management schemes at www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org

To sign up to receive free flood warnings and for information on how to protect your home or business from flooding, please call the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0345 988 1188, or visit the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Stay in touch

We will keep you up to date with newsletters and regular updates we provide to the Rickerby Tactical & Working Group.

If you would like to share any thoughts you might have on the flood risk management scheme or would like to know any further information, please contact Gareth Hamlett, Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Project Manager on 02030 256 991 or email gareth.hamlett@environment-agency.gov.uk.

You can also go online to www.gov.uk for more information about The Environment Agency or follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyNW.