

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

The Scheme

In 2019, 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.

The impacts of Storm Ciara and Dennis on Rickerby Retreat and Rickerby House have further highlighted the flood risk in Rickerby, these storms haven't significantly impact the construction programme.

Progress update

The archaeological works, required as part of the planning application, have been completed although the discovery of items of interest meant that they took an additional 6 weeks than the original programme. Going forward a watching brief is required.

Construction of the main works is now underway, as of January 2020. To date, these works have included;

- Widening of Rickerby Retreat secondary access which was required to enable us to use the main access to construct the haul road behind Rickerby Retreat, Rickerby House and the properties on Rickerby Court.
- Construction of the haul road to enable us to build the flood defence at the rear of Rickerby Court properties.

- The start of construction of the new highway has begun.



Above: Installed haul road at rear of properties

Upcoming activities

Now we have started on site we will be completing the construction of the flood defences and new highway simultaneously.

Construction of the flood defences will start at the rear of the Rickerby Court properties

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. Now we have started the new highway deliveries are likely to be on a daily basis.

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 revised construction programme, following the archaeology works, has been further impacted by contractual issues. However, these are now resolved and the project team are working hard to meet the following programme:

- *January - April 2020: Construction of new alignment for Rickerby Park Road*
- *January - February 2020: Construction of temporary access route behind Rickerby Gardens - Complete*
- *March 2020 - September 2020: Construction of flood walls and embankments to properties along Brunstock Beck and along the existing Rickerby Park Road*
- *September 2020: Flood defences are watertight*
- *September - December 2020: Landscaping and de-mobilisation.*

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.

Considerate Contractor

Our contractors VBA are signed up to the Considerate Contractors scheme and as such are looking for any small community projects or ideas that they could possibly assist with in either Rickerby or Linstock. In the past they have done a local fund raising event on one site where they brought in cakes and sold them on to site personnel and the proceeds were then given to a local charity. There was the crag cycle challenge that some of the personnel at Mytholmroyd attended again funds and donations to local charity. They currently have a Carlisle food bank collection point and Dog Trust Charity food bin on site that the workforce are contributing towards.

Any ideas can be sent on to the EA Project Manager, email gareth.hamlett@environment-agency.gov.uk.

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.