

Background

The Environment Agency have been developing proposals for a Flood Risk Management Scheme to provide increased protection from flooding in this area of Carlisle. The proposed work is to increase the diameter of the existing culvert which runs beneath the footpath in Askerton Close and Pennington Drive. The culvert has been overwhelmed in recent years causing flooding to properties around Askerton Close and Pennington Drive and the car park to the Morrison’s store.

The existing culvert is 525mm in diameter. The proposed size increase will result in this being replaced by a pipe with a 1200mm diameter, which is more than a 40% increase in size.

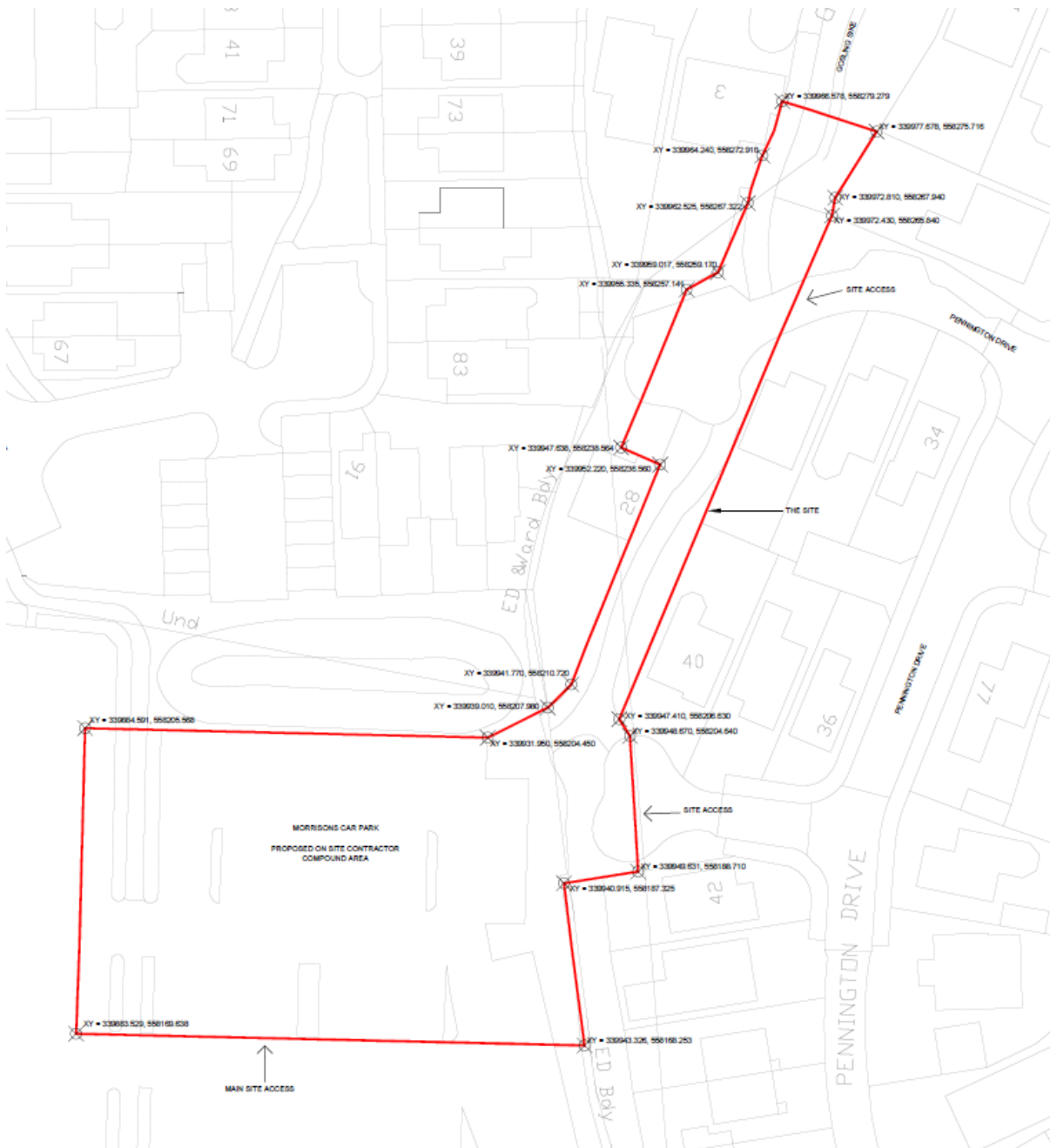


Image: The redline boundary of the project showing working area.

What are we doing now?

Despite numerous setbacks, we now have in place all of the necessary approvals and have gained agreement on our design from all of our partner organisations.

We are now in the process of setting up our construction contract with Volker Stevin who will be using their subcontractor Waitings to complete the works. It is our plan to undertake a trial hole in Morrisons' car park before Christmas in order to validate the design. Undertaking this work will allow us to make a running start early in the New Year, in the first week of January.

The works are expected to start in the Pennington Drive area and in the Morrisons car park around this time. We expect to have the flood defence improvement works completed by the end of March. Following on from these works will be the demobilisation and re-instatement works. It is expected that the contractor will be off site by the start of summer.

How will this impact me?

We will be enabling a temporary road closure on Pennington Drive to enable the works to be undertaken. This will mean that "access only" signs will be in place for the duration of the works. In addition to this, there may be some disturbance to residents parking, though this will not be for the full duration of the works. We will maintain access for residents during this time. Information on the road closure can be found here <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/roads/road-works/newroadworksmmap.asp>

As part of the construction works, we will assess the risk to properties that are adjacent to the working area and carry out pre-condition surveys.

Temporary footpath closures at links between Pennington Drive and Askerton Close will be in place to protect members of the public. We will update you with our construction traffic plans once they are fully agreed, though it is expected that most of the construction traffic will be situated within Morrisons car park.

As previously mentioned, the new trash screen structure at the inlet will be significantly larger than the grid that is currently in that location. The larger trash screen is required for operational and health and safety reasons, as well as to comply with latest design guidance. We have implemented measures to reduce visual impact were possible.

We will be issuing our formal Notice of Entry before Christmas, please do not be alarmed by this, we are legally obliged to provide notice where we are undertaking our works. We would very much welcome your calls or emails to discuss anything you may need to about the scheme.

Covid 19

In the current situation we remain focussed on keeping communities safe and delivering our Capital flood risk schemes where we can do so safely within Government guidelines. The majority of our staff, consultants and contractors are working remotely from offices and each other, but we are committed to continuing our activities where we can.

Contacting us

If you have any queries please call the Environment Agency's Project Manager, Alexander Whitworth, on 07881 010127 (alexander.whitworth@environment-agency.gov.uk).