

## Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme

### Newsletter No 2: February 2022

#### Flood Scheme update

Since the last update in September (Newsletter No 1), we have continued to make good progress on the delivery of the Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme.

We have been undertaking various tasks and activities to complete a number of planning conditions with the LPA; and have been undertaking further site investigations and surveys to support the final detailed designs and inform the scope for the main works contract.

Under the preliminary works contract, we have completed the establishment of the site compound and offices, undertaken vegetation clearance along the Trans Pennine Trail, placed orders for long lead time materials and commenced the detailed design of the Penketh Brook siphon culvert (which will sit under the canal and railway) with a specialist tunneling contractor.

We are currently finalising arrangements for the silt removal and culvert clearance works on Whittle Brook, which are due to start later this month.



Site compound



Existing Whittle Brook culvert investigation works



Prefabricated box section culvert for Penketh Brook overflow relief culvert



## Penketh and Whittle Proposed works



### The works comprise of

- Clearance of Whittle Brook railway/canal culvert;
- Localised de-silting works and the construction of a tidal outfall structure with non-return valve on the Whittle Brook River Mersey confluence to prevent tidal ingress and future siltation;
- Installation of an overflow relief culvert on Penketh Brook running beneath the railway and canal. The culvert will run from Penketh Brook parallel to the railway (approximately 140m) before dropping into a siphon for an additional 65m under the railway and canal. The overflow water will return to Penketh Brook via open cut channel (approximately 100m) downstream of the canal;
- Replacement of an existing debris screen at the inlet to the Penketh Brook Widnes Road culvert, which is currently not compliant with Environment Agency guidance.
- Creation of 6500m<sup>2</sup> of BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) habitat downstream of the railway and canal and approximately 40m<sup>2</sup> of new tree planting close to Penketh Brook upstream of the railway and canal;
- Provision of information and viewing access point at the Biodiversity Net Gain site/wildlife site, see below for further details.

### New Wildlife site

A new wildlife site is to be established to provide biodiversity net gain benefits to offset and add more value than any adverse impacts arising from the flood risk management works. The site will consist of reeds and planting to the new overflow relief channel cutting and the surrounding area and include the provision of ponds and scrapes. A raised area will be provided to enable people view the site, along with Information boards to explaining the site.

### The Team

The Environment Agency is working in partnership with Warrington Borough Council. The scheme is being delivered by our delivery partners Jacobs Uk, Volker Stevin and their specialist subcontractor Active Tunnelling. We are working closely with key service providers Network Rail, United Utilities and Cadent Gas to enable us to undertake the works safely.



# Penketh & Whittle FRMS – delivery programme

## Project Construction timeline

- Site Works Commence: September 2021
- Site compound Established: October 2021
- Whittle Brook desilting operations commence: February 2022
- Widnes Road Debris screen replacement works commences: March 2022
- Penketh Brook overflow relief culvert works commence: March 2022
- Whittle Brook outfall works commence: July 2022
- Construction Works Completed: November 2022

## Site Access

Access to the southern part of the site (south of the canal) will be gained from Barnard St. The northern part (north of the canal) will be accessed via Station Road. A temporary facility is to be set up at the end of Station Road to allow the transfer of culvert materials from road transport to site transport systems for onward delivery to the culvert overflow relief worksite. It is anticipated that the track from Station Road to Hall Nook will be closed for a period however a diversion will be put in place.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused by closing the footpaths within Gateswarth wildlife site however, the vegetation clearance undertaken on the Trans Pennine Trail provides an improved canal path route which will provide benefits both now and after the work are completed.

The footpath at Widnes Road culvert may need to be locally diverted for a short period of time however, we will endeavor to keep this to the minimum possible period.

## The Flood Hub Website

The Flood Hub is your one stop shop for flood advice and information. It is funded by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and has been developed by Newground and other partner agencies to support communities at risk of flooding across the North West. Update information will be available on the website including construction photographs.

You can find all the up to date information on planning and preparing for floods in the North West, to protect homes, businesses, land and wildlife. Visit <http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk> for more information!

## How will we keep you updated and involve you

We will continue to share information with residents via newsletters, The Floodhub and social media.

If you are outside the flood area and would like to be kept up to date with the Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme via email or have any queries, please email [floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list. We aim to send regular updates.

