

# Irwell Vale, Strongstry and Chatterton Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS)

Community Drop-in March 2022

# Purpose of the Drop-In Session

The Environment Agency has planned Community Drop-in sessions to engage with the local residents and provide an update on the Irwell Vale, Strongstry and Chatterton Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS).

The purpose of the Drop-in sessions are:

1. To update the community on the status of the scheme
2. To highlight some significant challenges/constraints associated with the scheme which mean we have to make key decisions and compromises
3. To gain valuable feedback from the community

This information is provided for those who were unable to attend the Drop-in sessions and those who want to review the information again.

Please read through this information and also **fill out a feedback form** as this provides us with valuable information in terms of people's preferences as we move forward and make key decisions. This will also help should we go through the Council Planning process. Please spend the time giving us your feedback (good and bad).

There are separate drawings provided should you wish to open them up and have a clearer view and zoom in on any specific areas.

# Introduction

This scheme is led by the Environment Agency (EA) and seeks to reduce the high level fluvial (river) flood risk to the communities of Irwell Vale, Strongstry and Chatterton in the Rossendale Valley, East Lancashire.

The communities are hydraulically linked by the River Irwell and have suffered numerous floods in recent years most notably the December 2015 flood.

This scheme is currently in 'appraisal stage' meaning the Environment Agency is reviewing the feasibility of the scheme by looking at its hydraulic, economic, commercial and financial benefits to ensure value for money is delivered by tax payers money.

The scheme will then go through a Business Case review in late 2022. This will be a key decision point as to the feasibility of the scheme and whether full funding has been confirmed. If this is confirmed, the scheme will progress into Detailed Design and Construction. If the business case is not accepted and/or full funding is not confirmed, the scheme will not progress. We are doing everything we can to deliver this project and fill the funding gap (currently approximately £5-6m).

# Progress to date

The Environment Agency has been following the Government guidelines for assessing schemes such as this one. This has consisted of the following:

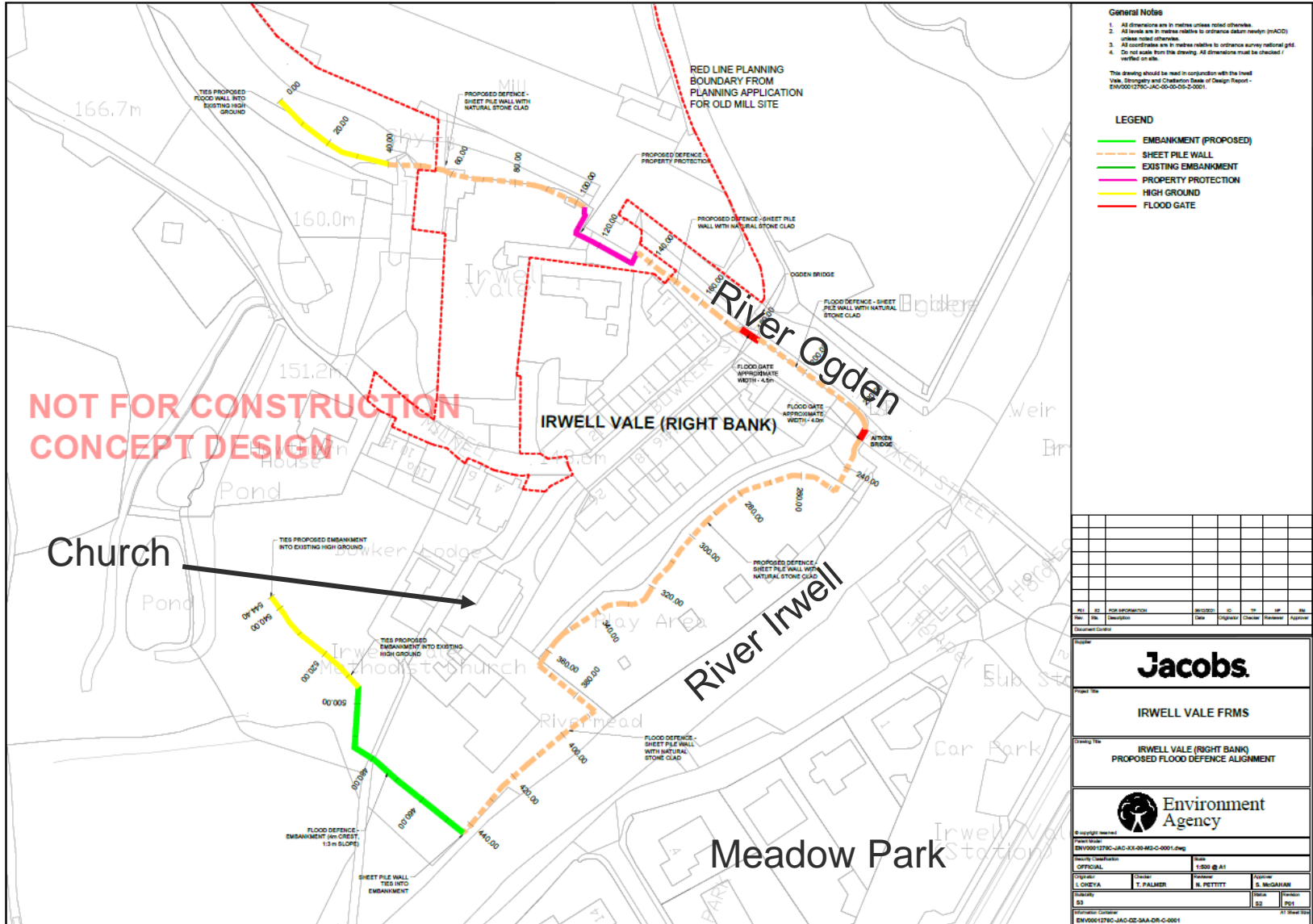
1. A long list of options was produced and evaluated for positives and negatives. Options that passed the evaluation were then carried forward to a short list review. These short list options were reviewed in greater detail and a 'Preferred Option' taken forward. This being 'Linear Defences'\*.
2. The preferred flood alignment was produced illustrating where we believed to be the most suitable location for the flood defences (based on current design maturity).
3. Surveys and site investigations have been carried out across Irwell Vale, Strongstry and Chatterton. These have informed the project team on specific constraints on site such as ground conditions, ecology, trees and construction access.
4. Hydraulic modelling had been carried out to illustrate how flooding can occur under different flood scenarios.
5. This has informed the options of flood defence heights depending on the level of protection to be provided.
6. We now want feedback from the community on these proposals. We understand that in order to provide a flood defence in your area, there will be compromises that need to be made. We want to get your opinion on this and understand what is a priority for you. We can then shape any future defences with this in mind.  
**This is why completing the feedback form is so important to us.**

The next few pages show the proposed alignment of the defences and what type i.e. whether a flood wall or a grassed embankment (please refer to the 'Commonly asked Questions' sheet for example images of these types of flood defences). Followed by examples of what likely height the defences could be.

\*Linear Defence – a linear defence is a form of defence that acts in a linear/straight fashion to contain flood water. Examples being flood walls on river banks or grassed embankments.

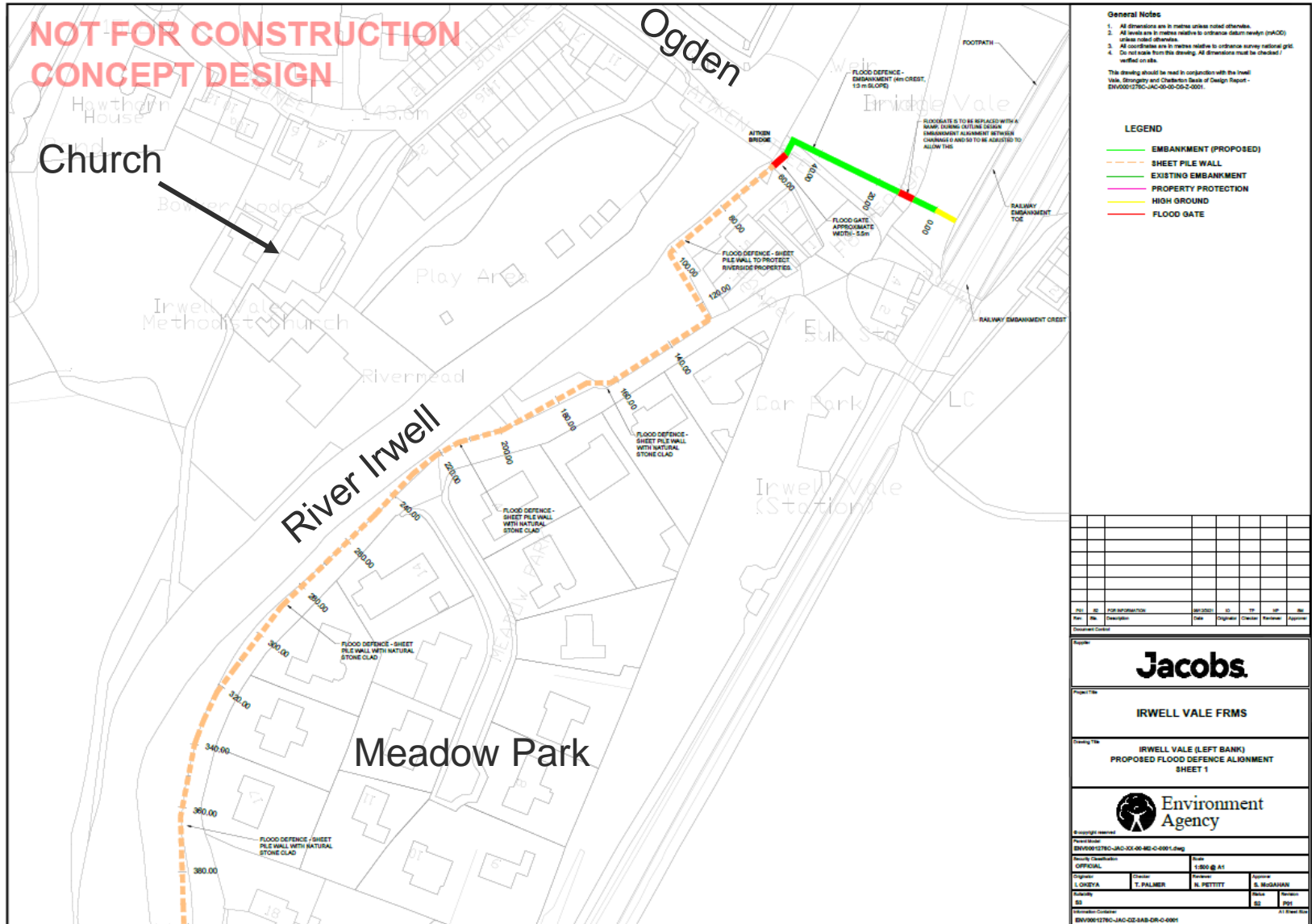
# Proposed Alignment

## Irwell Vale – Right Bank



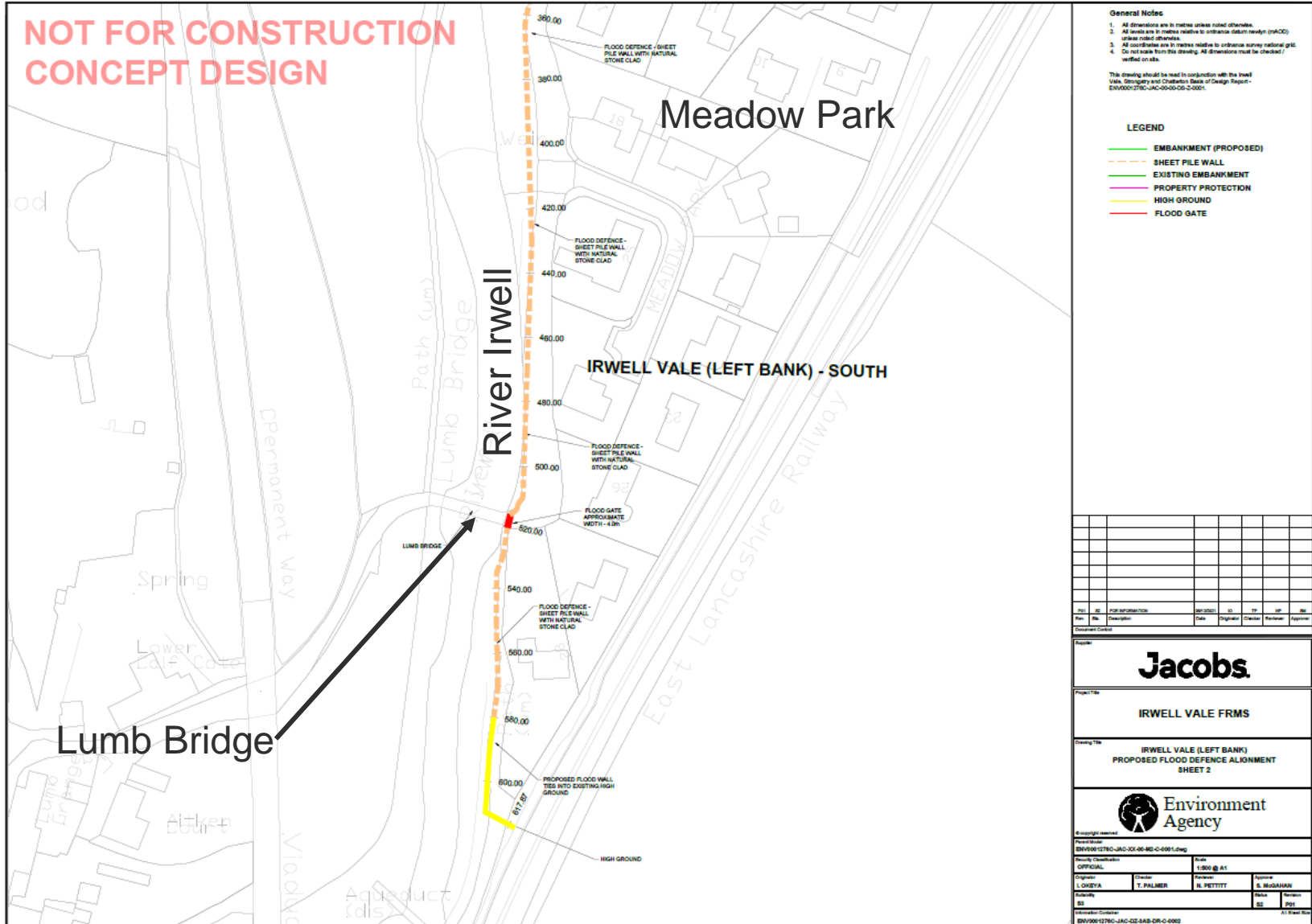
# Proposed Alignment

Irwell Vale – Left Bank (1 of 2)



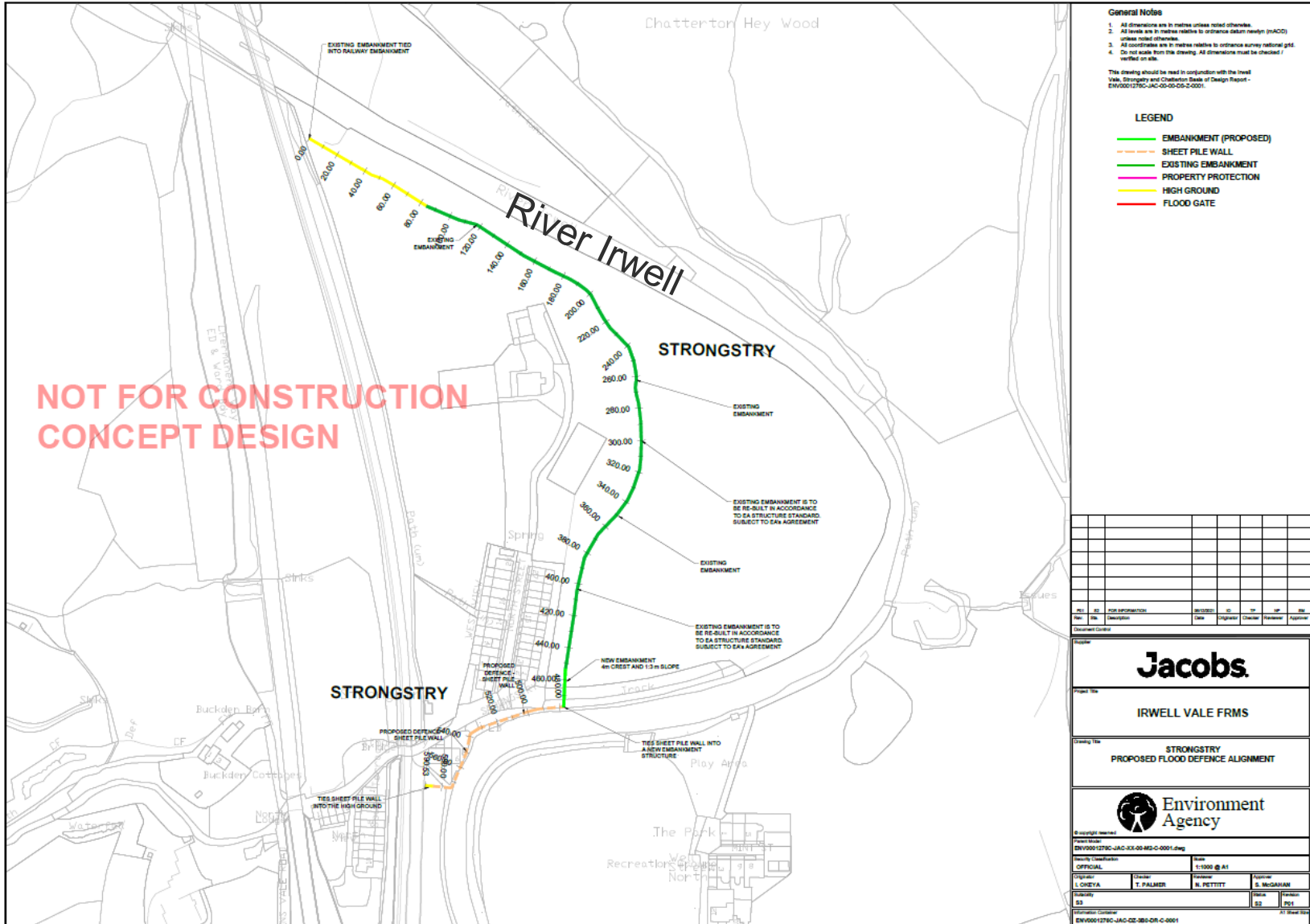
# Proposed Alignment

Irwell Vale – Left Bank (2 of 2)



# Proposed Alignment

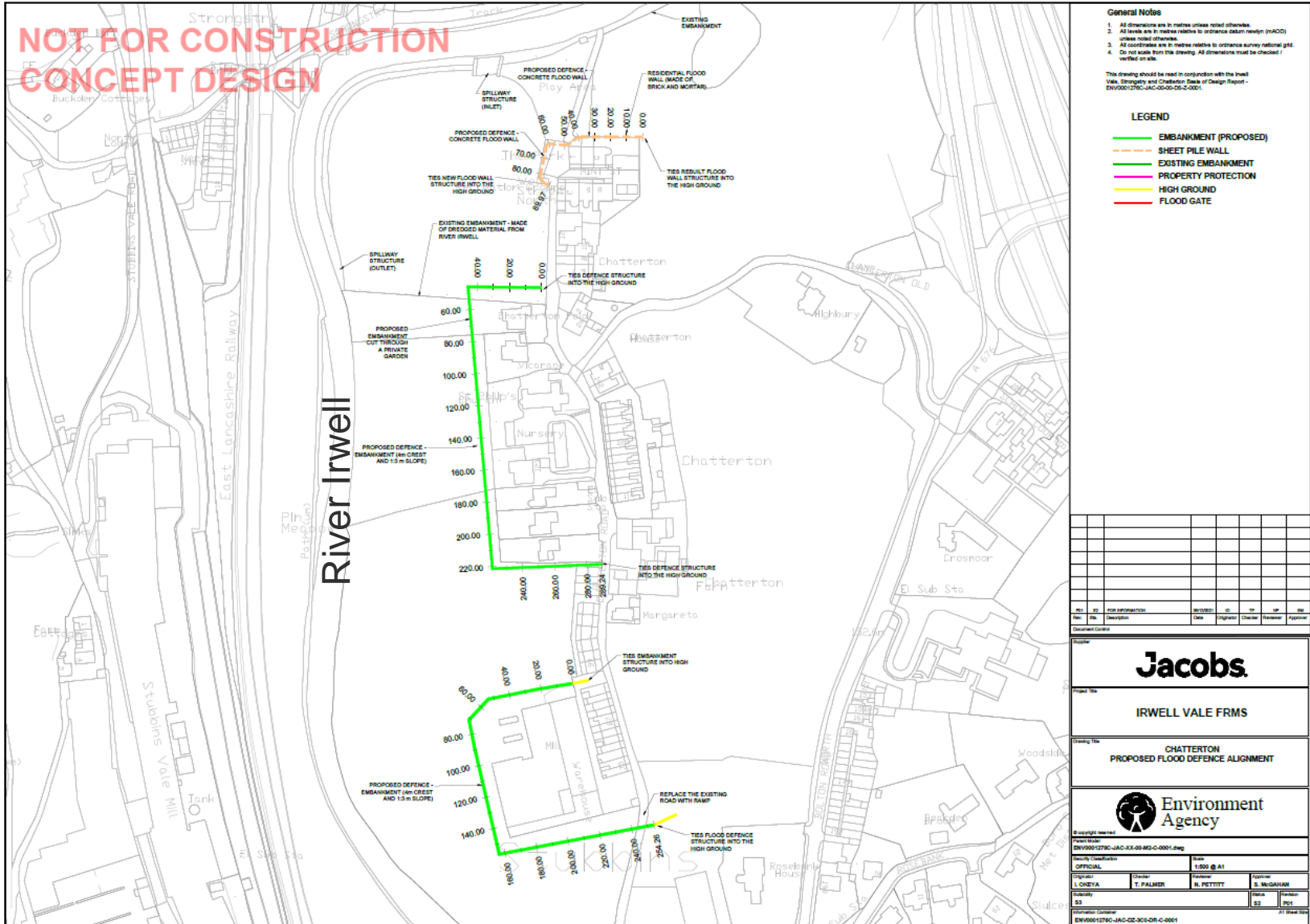
Strongstry





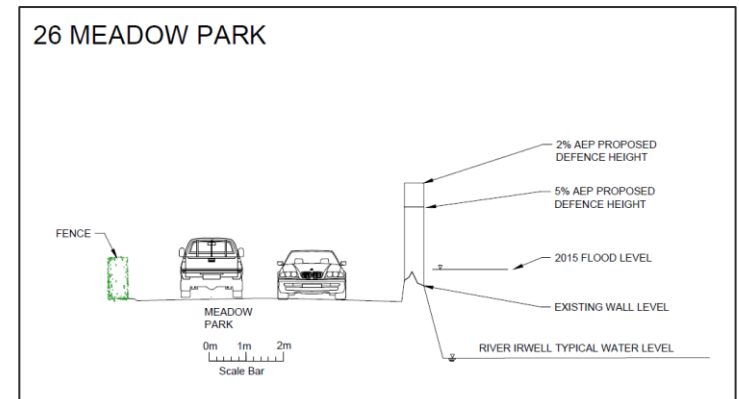
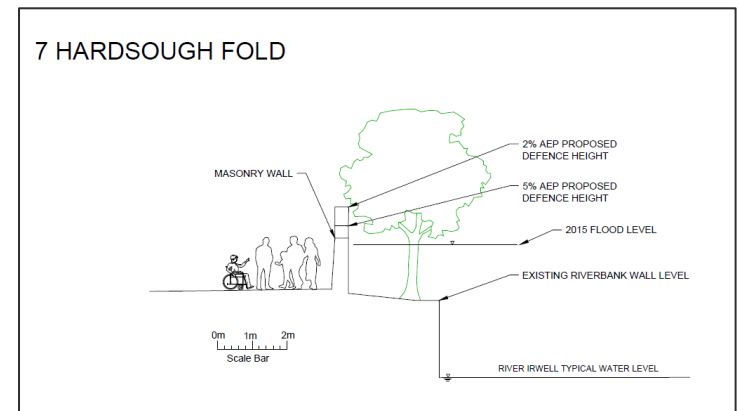
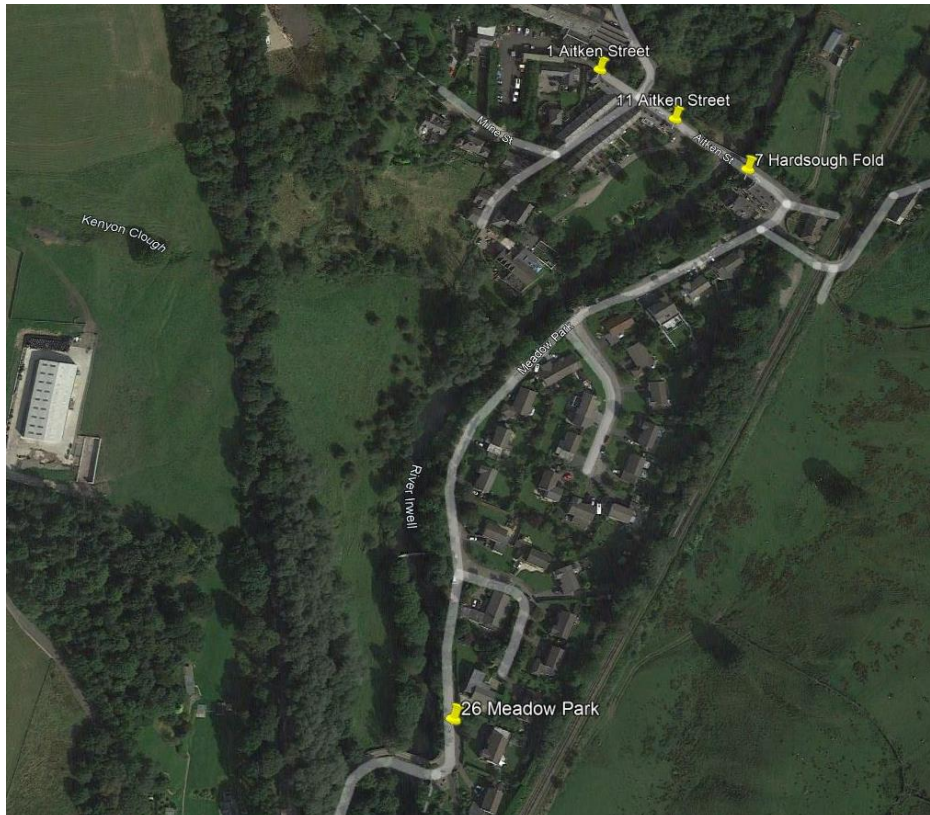
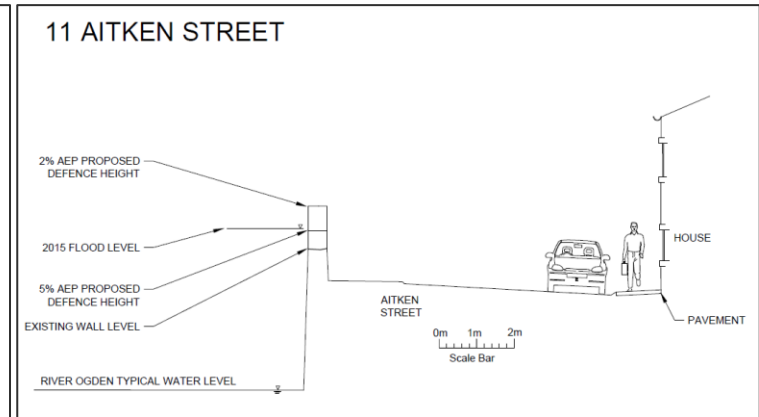
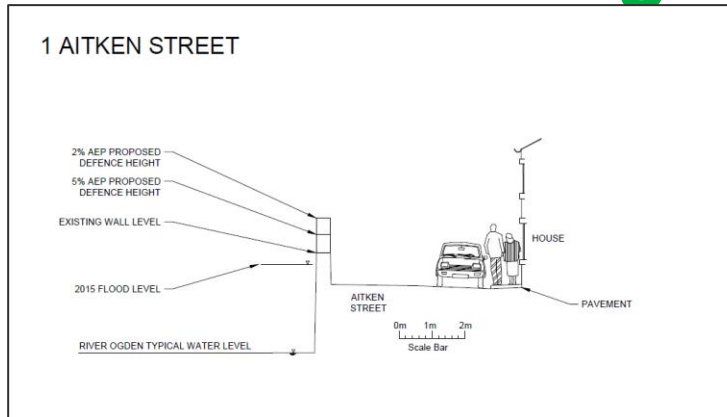
# Proposed Alignment

Chatterton



# Proposed Defence Heights – Irwell Vale

Cross sections show what the defence heights could look like depending on the standard of protection



# Proposed Defence Heights – Strongstry & Chatterton

Cross sections show what the defence heights could look like depending on the standard of protection

