

Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme – Newsletter 2

May 2022

Scheme Progress Update

Welcome to our latest newsletter which provides an update of progress on the Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme. The Capital Scheme is being delivered by the Environment Agency in partnership with Warrington Borough Council (WBC), United Utilities (UU), the Department for Education (DfE) and the Northwest Regional Flood & Coastal Committee.

We want this scheme to reduce the risk of flooding from Sankey, Longford and Dallam Brooks. Our focus is on addressing river and tidal flood risk from these watercourses. We also want to understand and mitigate the surface water flood risk. Our objective is to deliver a comprehensive scheme that reduces risk from all sources.

The appraisal for the scheme is progressing well and we are working towards a shortlist of potential scheme options. These will be a combination of flood risk mitigation measures, including:

- Linear flood defences (set back from river edge where possible)
- Flood storage attenuation areas – areas adjacent to the watercourse where we can maximise the use of existing natural floodplain
- Review of Longford Barrage, the existing tidal barrage asset on Longford Brook
- Potential for additional tidal gates at the confluence of Dallam / Sankey Brook
- Natural flood risk management opportunities upstream of the M62 to supplement the key flood risk measures
- Localised surface water flooding mitigation measures
- Individual property flood resilience measures
- Sustainable water drainage measures
- Potential long-term plans to relocate high risk property out of the flood risk zone and /or ensure that new development is resilient to the flood risk.

Environmental benefits and opportunities also remain key considerations as the scheme progresses.

A shortlist of options is currently being developed from the above flood risk mitigation measures and will be presented as part of the virtual consultation referenced later in the **Public Engagement** section.

The preferred scheme option will then be selected from this shortlist, taking into account your feedback from the virtual consultation. This will form the basis of the public drop-in event scheduled for Autumn 2022.

Storm Christoph January 2021 Flood Event – Working with our Partners

Storm Christoph in January 2021 was an unprecedented flood event and resulted in significant flooding in Warrington. The data gathered from this event has demonstrated the extent and significance of surface water flood risk and its interaction with the watercourses within the study area.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

With this new evidence we took the decision to extend the scope of our river modelling work to fully understand this source of flooding. We are working in partnership with Warrington Borough Council (WBC) and United Utilities (UU) to ensure a comprehensive scheme is developed and implemented. This scheme will be designed to address all sources of flooding – from river, surface water and surface water drainage. This is to deliver the best outcome to the local residents, businesses and communities within our study area.

Wider Benefits from the Scheme

As well as protecting homes and businesses from flood risk, the project team is also looking to promote wider scheme benefits and improvement opportunities. This could be by creating or improving environmental habitats in the area, improving recreational and amenity areas, promoting local heritage or delivering tree planting and other similar opportunities, which will develop and enhance the character of the scheme area.

To ensure that we deliver the best outcomes and maximise these opportunities, we are engaging with the community, local groups and key stakeholders in the area.

Maintenance Work/Contingency Plans

The Environment Agency has recently carried out maintenance activities on Sankey, Dallam and Longford Brooks within the Warrington area. This has included vegetation clearance around key assets, blockage and debris removal in the river channels and channel side vegetation management. Works were also undertaken to the overflow channel from Sankey Brook to Sankey Canal to remove mature and fallen trees; this is to ensure the unobstructed conveyance of water when this asset operates.

Before and after photos of Dallam Brook, taken from Longshaw Street.



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Rostherne Close

Sandbag wall constructed as contingency measure.



We continue to work with our key partners to identify and discuss contingency opportunities and measures that could be deployed ahead of the Capital Scheme delivery.

Project Team

The Capital Scheme is being managed by the Environment Agency with our Design Consultant - Jacobs and our Contractor - Volker Stevin, and we continue to work in partnership with Warrington Borough Council and United Utilities to ensure we get the best outcome for the community.

Funding

The funding from central government for managing flood risk in England is known as 'Flood Defence Grant in Aid'. This will be the primary source, but we are also actively working with key partners including the Department of Education, the Northwest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, and other bodies to identify other potential funding streams for this Scheme.

Current Programme of Works

Due to additional work required following Storm Christoph to better understand all of the flood risk sources as detailed above, we have revised our milestone dates as follows:

- Preferred Scheme Identified and Submitted – November 2022
- Detailed Design and Funding for Construction Approved – June 2024
- Construction Start – August 2024
- Construction Complete (Ready for Service) – July 2026

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Engagement with Local Schools and Colleges

We are connecting with local schools and colleges that are within the study area to promote flood risk as part of their curriculum and discuss the progress of the Flood Risk Management Scheme. Our most recent visit was to Evelyn Street Primary School, and this was well received by the school children.

Public Engagement – Keeping in touch

We are proposing to hold a virtual public consultation in June 2022. This will provide the opportunity to view the scheme overview and environmental opportunities as well as giving the project team the chance to ask questions and capture your thoughts on any other issues or aspirations you would like us to consider as the scheme progresses.

This will be hosted through the **Flood Hub**. An initial letter will be sent to you or an email if we have your email address, to provide all details and times for how to take part in this virtual public consultation.

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. You can find all the up-to-date Scheme information along with advice for planning and preparing for floods to protect homes, businesses, land and wildlife. Follow this link for further information:

thefloodhub.co.uk/SankeyBrookFRMSWarrington

We will be holding a further public drop-in event in the Autumn 2022 to present our proposed scheme designs. The details of this public event will be shared once confirmed.

We will continue to update you with newsletters from now until we finish the scheme. We will ask for your opinions on the scheme appearance. We will continue to host public displays where you can see and comment on our designs before we submit our planning application.

There will also be public drop-in sessions organised by Warrington Borough Council that the Environment Agency will continue to support.

If you would like to share any thoughts you might have, please get in touch. Email us at FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you or any other residents who do not currently receive communications from the Environment Agency would like to receive future updates and newsletters regarding the flood scheme, please e-mail FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk

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