

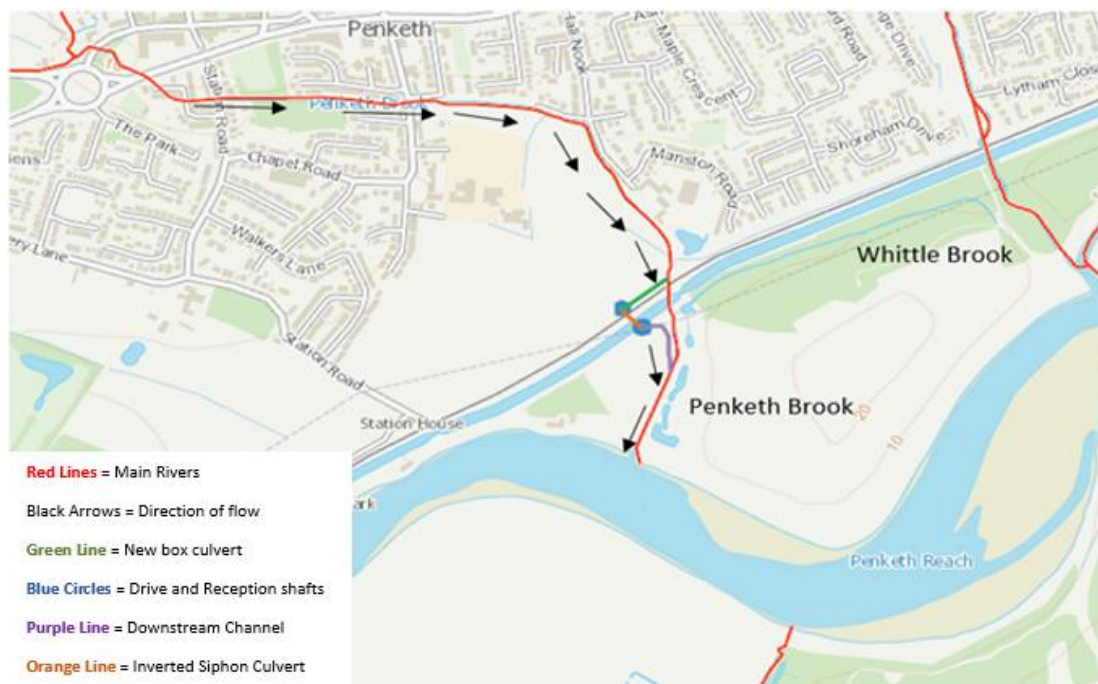


Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter August 2022

Project update / Flood Scheme update

Further to our previous update, the Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) has continued to make significant progress. This project is being delivered in partnership working with Warrington Borough Council and aims to reduce flood risk to 221 properties from Penketh and Whittle Brooks.

Penketh and Whittle works



Scheme works include:

- Clearance of Whittle Brook railway/canal culvert;
- Localised channel de-silting works and the construction of a tidal outfall structure with non-return tidal gate on the Whittle Brook River Mersey confluence to prevent tidal ingress and siltation;
- Installation of an overflow relief culvert on Penketh Brook running beneath the railway and Sankey canal. The culvert will run from Penketh Brook parallel to the railway (approximately 140m) before dropping into a siphon for an additional 60m under the railway and canal. The overflow water will return to Penketh Brook via open cut channel (approximately 100m) downstream of the canal.
- Creation of 6500m² of biodiversity net gain (environmental enhancements) habitat downstream of the railway and canal and approximately 50m² of new tree planting along Penketh Brook upstream of the railway and 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.

Works due to start

As part of the new flood risk management scheme on Penketh Brook, a new culvert is to be constructed which will allow floodwater to pass under the railway / canal, when the existing culvert reaches capacity. The new 1.5m diameter concrete culvert will be



constructed using a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) located 7m below ground level, which will remove clay between two vertical tunnel shafts over a length of 65m. Tunnelling works will be a continuous 24 hours a day operation and are programmed to last for approximately 10 days. The forecast programme start date is Monday 19th September. Once the TBM starts, it needs to continue to provide a straight and continuous alignment of the tunnel, whilst stopping the machine risks it becoming stuck in the ground, with difficulty and costs associated with removal.

In addition to the TBM, there will be cranes and generators located at the top of the southern tunnel shaft to support the TBM operation. We are reviewing and assessing the noise that this equipment will generate during the construction works, immediately at the construction site but also in the surrounding areas. In consultation with Warrington Borough Council, we will discuss the noise assessment and agree appropriate mitigation (as necessary) to reduce any potential impact on local residents and businesses.

Project Benefits

The main benefits that will be derived from the flood defence improvements along Penketh and Whittle Brooks include:

- Reduction in potential loss of life and injury.
- Reduction in flood damages to property and vehicles.
- Reduction in stress and other adverse health and wellbeing effects for local residents.
- Reduction to transport disruption (A562, Hall Nook).
- Significant environmental enhancements.
- Improved ease of operation and maintenance of flood defence assets.

Penketh & Whittle FRMS – delivery programme

Milestone	Date
Preliminary works start including Site Investigation and Establishment of Site Compound Area	September 2021
Main construction works start on Penketh Brook Culvert	June 2022
Tunnelling works under the Fiddlers Ferry Railway and Sankey Canal	September 2022
Whittle Brook Outfall Construction	Autumn 2022
Construction Completion, Reinstatement and Environmental Works Complete	April 2023

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. 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 which will be available on The Flood hub at the following link <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/penkethandwhittlefrms/#section-4>. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please email floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.

If you have any queries or would like to get in touch please email floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk

