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5 November 2024

## Northenden Weir Repair

The Environment Agency (EA) are planning on carrying out repair works to Northenden Weir to repair damage that has occurred to some of the masonry blocks during recent high river levels following the numerous storm events in 2023/24. We would like to assure you that this is a proactive measure and that there is no immediate risk to the local community.

### Why the repair is needed

Northenden Weir is used to provide Flood Warnings and Alerts to communities in Northenden, Didsbury, and others downstream on the River Mersey. It does this by providing a consistent water level reading from the Northenden River Level Gauge upstream of the weir. By maintaining the upstream water level, the weir also ensures the river embankments and walls remain stable enabling these flood defences to continue to protect the local communities.

Environment Agency (EA) Operations staff and their Delivery Partners have been regularly monitoring the condition of the weir since the storm events of 23/24. This monitoring has recently confirmed further deterioration of the weir, and the EA will now undertake a repair in advance of the winter months.

The damaged weir poses a safety risk to those using the river, e.g. canoeists, as the specific area of damage to the weir is not visible when upstream on the river. The EA continue to liaise with local kayaking/canoe groups and have put up additional signage warning

river users of the risk. Until the weir is repaired, the safety risk to river users remains. Therefore, we ask that members of the public stay clear of the weir until the repair works have been completed.

## **The Repair Works**

During mid-November the EA will dewater a section of the weir enabling us to complete a detailed inspection to fully understand the condition of the weir. To dewater the weir, we will install large rock bags upstream in front of the weir which directs the water elsewhere leaving the weir exposed for inspection. The large rock bags will be installed using a helicopter as this is the most efficient and cost-effective way of installing the rock bags in a short period of time. Installation of the large rock bags is expected to take 1 to 2 days dependent on weather conditions.

The inspection of the weirs condition will determine the repair work required. The repair works will progress shortly after the inspection, and the EA expect all works to be complete early in the New Year.

## **When Will Construction Start?**

The dewatering activities are planned for Monday 18th November. However, given the nature of this activity (use of a helicopter), this will be weather dependent and therefore subject to change. Updates will be provided on The Flood Hub and social media platforms (X and Instagram). Further information on this is provide at the foot of this letter.

An inspection of the weir will follow dewatering of the weir to determine the weirs condition which will determine the repair work required. The repair works will progress shortly after the inspection, and the EA expect all works to be complete early in the New Year.

## **How our works will impact you**

On the day of the helicopter activity, areas in and around the weir will be closed off including:

- Footpaths on both sides of the river.
- The footbridge upstream of the weir – diversion routes will be in place.
- The play area will also be closed.

There will be site staff in place to assist and divert you around the works to the most appropriate route.

Given the proximity of the weir to homes and businesses, there will be some noise disruption on the day of the helicopter activities due to the low position of the helicopter above the weir. The helicopter work is expected to take 1-2 days dependent on weather conditions.

A section of Withington Golf Club car park will be closed off with this being utilised as the landing area for the helicopter.

During the repair works, footpaths will be re-opened and there will be signage in place to divert members of the public away from any working areas. For details of footpath closures, please see the link to the Flood hub below

### **Working with the community**

The EA have been working with Withington Golf Club, Manchester City Council, the local Kayak Club, and landowners directly affected by our works to keep them informed of our plans.

If you have any queries or would like any further information, please contact us as follows:

**[floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk)**

**Contact the Environment Agency Customer service 03706 506 506**

**Floodline 03459 881 188**

**Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60**

**[thefloodhub.co.uk/repair-works-at-northenden-weir/](https://thefloodhub.co.uk/repair-works-at-northenden-weir/)**

