

Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme – Newsletter 4

November 2024

Welcome to our latest newsletter which provides a progress update on the Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS).

Background

The Sankey Brook FRMS is a major capital project which, when completed, will reduce flood risk to homes and businesses within West Warrington from a number of watercourses including Sankey Brook, Dallam Brook and Longford Brook.

There are more than 1,700 residential properties within the area of West Warrington, currently at risk of flooding during a 1 in 100 year flood event (a 1% chance of occurring in any given year).

There are limited existing flood defences in the scheme area, and these only provide a low standard of flood protection. The aim of this scheme is to significantly reduce the flood risk by providing additional flood defences and other supporting flood risk protection measures. The areas within West Warrington that will benefit include (but are not limited to) Sankey Bridges, Dallam, Bewsey and Callands.

The Environment Agency (EA) is working in partnership with Warrington Borough Council (WBC) and United Utilities (UU) to deliver this scheme. Other supporting parties include the Department for Education and the Northwest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

This project compliments two other flood risk reduction schemes that have previously been undertaken and completed in Warrington including the River Mersey and Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme.

[River Mersey, Warrington, Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#)

[Penketh and Whittle Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#)

These two completed projects now provide flood protection to over 2,200 properties and businesses within the town of Warrington.

What has been done so far?

The EA has funded and undertaken a detailed appraisal study to identify a Preferred Scheme Option and has secured approval to progress with the Design Stage of the project.

The Preferred Scheme Option will provide a present day 1 in 200yr standard of flood protection (the chance of flooding in any given year will be reduced to 0.5%); however, this Standard of protection will reduce over time because of climate change.

The Project currently has an estimated cost of £100m and includes the following measures:

- Construction of new Linear defences comprising of both flood defence walls and flood embankments (maximising use of natural flood plain)
- Conveyance improvements at Old Liverpool Road, Sankey Bridges
- Tidal Gate on Dallam Brook to prevent water from backing up Dallam Brook beyond Longshaw Street
- Refurbishment of existing Longford Barrage

- Residual Flood Risk mitigation measures (including sustainable drainage systems, attenuation, localised pumping)
- Local flood resilience measures such as flood doors, flood proofing of properties
- Local Environmental Enhancement Works – examples presented later in Newsletter.

Where are we now?

Financial approval has been secured to progress with the next stage (Design Stage) of the scheme. This approval will, over the next 18 months, allow the following works to be undertaken:

- Site and Ground Investigation works to inform the detailed design activities.
- Environmental and Sustainability Assessments of the proposed works
- Further development and Refinement of the Preferred Scheme Option
- Further customer engagement.

Current programme of works:

The scheme programme has been updated to reflect our current understanding of the scheme requirements, key constraints and remaining delivery challenges.

The key forecast milestones are:

- Outline Business Case approved – October 2024 - **complete**.
- Completion of Detailed Design including submission of scheme planning application – Spring 2029
- Submission to request approval to undertake Construction works - Spring 2029
- Approval to proceed with Construction works – Summer 2029
- Start of Construction works - Summer 2029
- Completion of Construction works - end 2031.

We are very aware of the anxiety that the current flooding risk is causing, and we fully recognise that the timescale for the delivery of this project is a lot longer than many would like to see.

However, the presented programme of works is realistic given the remaining challenges and is a fair and reasonable reflection of the actual time required to complete all the necessary tasks and activities required for this project.

Key Challenges:

Major challenges to delivery include:

- The technical complexity of this scheme, which aims to address all flood risk sources.
- The number of interactions with third parties and other major infrastructure projects
- The ongoing stakeholder management and consultation processes required for the delivery of this scheme.
- Securing all required consents and approvals
- Securing planning permission for the scheme with due regard to all planning and environmental constraints and requirements
- Scheme funding, requirements and affordability.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Scheme Funding Requirements:

Funding for this Complex Capital Project remains a key challenge. There is currently a funding gap and delivery of this Project is conditional on sufficient funding being secured.

Whilst the primary source of funding is Flood Defence Grant in Aid from Central Government. We continue to work with our key partners Warrington Borough Council and United Utilities and others (Department of Education and Regional flood & Coastal Committee) to secure the funding to progress the project.

Wider Environmental Benefits we are looking to promote:

As well as protecting homes and businesses from flood risk, the EA and our project partners (WBC & UU) are also looking to promote wider scheme benefits and improvement opportunities.

The various opportunities identified to date comprise the following:

- Creating and/or improving environmental habitats in the area
- Improving recreational and amenity areas
- Promoting local heritage
- 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 fully committed to continue to engage with the community, local groups and key stakeholders in the area.

Some examples of our proposed wider Environmental improvements are illustrated in the artist impressions below:



Gemini Wetlands Area – Callands & Winwick Quay



Sankey Valley Park @ Old Liverpool Road, Sankey Bridges:

Delivered and Planned Interim Works to reduce flood risk:

There have been two very recent storm events that have caused heightened anxiety within the community and localised flooding to some areas of West Warrington. The two events in question occurred on 30th September to 1st October and 16th to 17th October 2024.

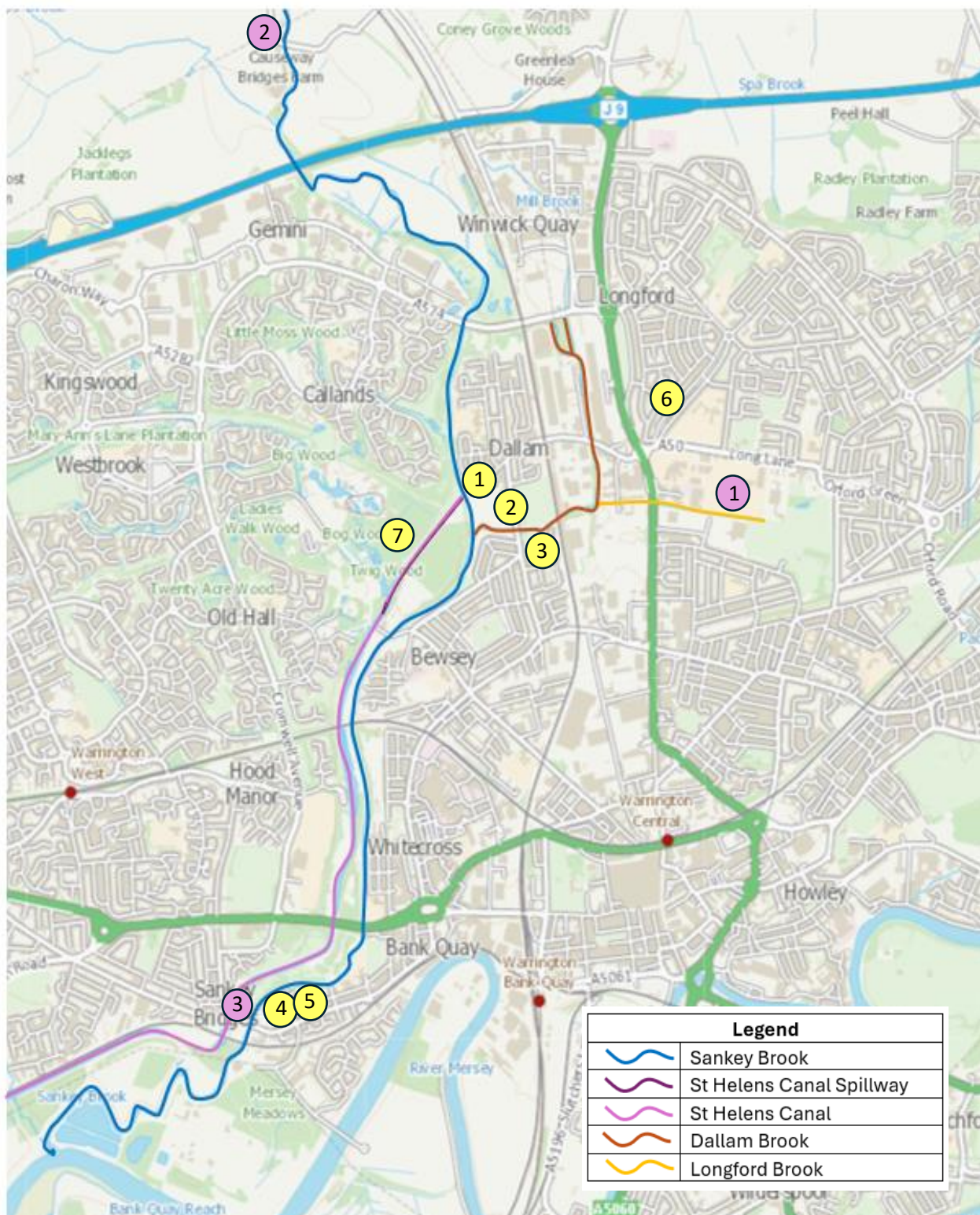
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We will continue to progress this important Capital Project; but would highlight there have been other interim works delivered and planned by EA and Partners to reduce the risk of flooding.

Schematic plan showing **Delivered** and **Planned** works within Sankey Brook, Dallam Brook and Longford Brook scheme study areas:



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Details of **Delivered** and **Planned** Works highlighted in the schematic plan, with the key objective to reduce flood risk are:

Delivered Works:	
①	Higham Avenue - EA have raised up the telemetry station to prevent flood water damage and reviewed the river level for when flood warnings are issued. WBC & UU in collaboration have repaired and modified the pumps and controls. Regular inspections are undertaken to this asset.
②	Longshaw Street - Outfall replaced by UU.
③	Charter Avenue – EA have installed a flood defence and UU have implemented a powered non return valve to mitigate surface water flooding.
④	Rostherne Close – EA reconstructed the sandbag wall to restrict this out of bank flow route from Sankey Brook. Rostherne Close area - EA have completed two treatments of Japanese Knotweed.
⑤	Evelyn Street & Rostherne Close – EA have undertaken repair works to garden walls adjacent to Sankey Brook.
⑥	Densham Avenue – WBC designed and implemented a new pumping station. UU were key partners in this project.
⑦	St Helens Canal spillway - significant works undertaken by EA to remove mature and fallen trees within this spillway channel.
Planned Works:	
①	Longford Brook - Proposed EA channel maintenance along the brook to improve channel flow and capacity.
②	Causeway Bridges Farm - EA to remove fallen trees from Sankey Brook.
③	Liverpool Road, Sankey Bridges - WBC are developing a surface water management project.
	Ongoing treatment of Japanese Knotweed throughout area
Ongoing Studies:	
	UU are undertaking several studies in this area; their Dynamic Network Management has involved the installation of sensors to gain better understanding of drainage levels and how their sewer network performs. They are also looking at opportunities to separate surface water from combined drainage system.

Routine Maintenance:

The EA undertake a routine maintenance and asset inspection programme within Sankey, Dallam and Longford Brooks. Maintenance works include vegetation clearance around assets, debris removal in river channels and channel side vegetation management.

These inspections comprise a visual assessment of the condition of EA flood defence and other assets owned by third (non-EA) parties. By determining and monitoring the condition of assets along watercourses we can ensure flood defence assets operate as designed when needed to, but also allows us to flag up any deterioration or required repairs.

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Public Engagement – Keeping in Touch:

Further public community drop-in sessions are scheduled on:

- **Wednesday 20th November: Sankey Bridges Community Centre (3pm - 7pm).**
- **Thursday 21st November: Dallam and Bewsey Community Hub (3pm - 7pm).**

Members of the project teams from EA, WBC and UU will also be in attendance to speak to residents and businesses about flood resilience and what they can do to protect their homes and businesses from flooding.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns and would like to speak to a member of the project team, please email FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk or if you do not have access to email, please call 02030 250495.

Information regarding the proposed scheme is available on the “Flood Hub” at the following link:
[Sankey Brook Proposed Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#)

Environment Agency Flood Incident Response and Warnings:

Environment Agency Flood Alerts/Warning - We encourage residents who are at risk of flooding to sign up to the Environment Agency’s free service by calling Floodline, on 0345 988 1188, or by going online: [gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings).

For further information on flood warnings and how to prepare for flooding please visit: thefloodhub.co.uk/am-i-at-risk/

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