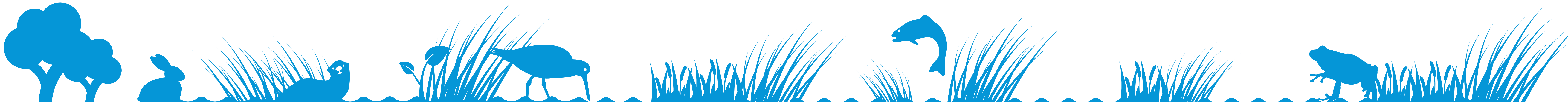


Historic flooding in Preston and South Ribble

There is a long history of flooding in Preston and South Ribble, with multiple flood events taking place between 1866 and 2025. The existing Preston and South Ribble flood defences were built in stages between the 1920s and the early 2000s.

These defences are now reaching the end of their design life and need to be repaired or replaced. In some locations new flood defences will be installed.

Flood timeline



Introduction

The Preston and South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme starts at Broadgate in Preston, follows the River Ribble upstream into Walton-le-Dale, and the River Darwen upstream as far as Blue Bridge.

Existing flood defences along the River Ribble and River Darwen were built in stages over the last century and some are now reaching the end of their design life.

The Environment Agency is working closely with partners including Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council and United Utilities, to repair, replace, and extend these defences, providing renewed flood protection for homes and businesses across Preston and South Ribble. The Scheme will not only reduce flood risk but will also create a lasting benefit for the wider community and the environment.

The Scheme is split into two phases. Both are shown on the map to the right, and Phase 1 is already under construction.

This consultation relates to Phase 2 of the Scheme, which includes defences on the River Ribble in Walton-le-Dale and short sections on Chorley Road and Higher Walton Road on the River Darwen.

Preston and South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme overview map. Map image copyright 2025 Microsoft.



Phase 1 update

Construction of Phase 1 of the Scheme is progressing well, with most of the new flood defences along Broadgate and Riverside in Preston, as well as those in Lower Penwortham, now completed.

There are only two short sections along Riverside and near the entrance to Miller Park still under construction.

Scheme benefits



Providing flood protection & better community amenities

- **5 km:** New and improved defences
- **5000:** Homes and businesses better protected from flooding
- **Three:** New sports pitches created for the community



Providing better economic growth & education opportunities

- **Over £55m:** Investment in Preston & South Ribble
- **100+:** People have worked on the Scheme so far
- **Circa 25:** Educational sessions have been delivered in local schools



Protecting & enhancing the local environment

- **12:** Trees to be planted for every tree removed
- **Over 8,400:** Tree have been planted in Fishwick Bottoms
- **0.35:** Hectares of new wetland created



Phase 2

Changes to Phase 2 since the 2019 consultation

We consulted on the initial scheme in 2019 and since then we have continued to develop the design for Phase 2 of the Scheme, including reviewing the approach to flood risk management in the local area. Our updated proposals focus on making the most of existing assets across Phase 2, increasing the height and utilising the remaining design life of the current flood defences in South Ribble. As part of Phase 2 we will also undertake maintenance work on existing defences, where required, including in Frenchwood.

This approach, combined with a review of our hydraulic modelling, has refined the interventions that are now being taken forward as part of Phase 2.

Permitted development and planning permission

The Environment Agency requires different permissions to repair, replace, and extend the defences across Phase 2 of the Scheme. For work where existing flood defences are being raised or repaired, construction will be undertaken using the Agency's Permitted Development rights, which means planning permission is not required.

Where the proposals include replacing or extending flood defences, planning permission is required. A planning application for these elements of the Scheme will be submitted to South Ribble Borough Council in summer 2025.

The feedback from this consultation will be documented within the planning application and will also be considered in the development of the design and construction methodology for Phase 2.

Works in Phase 2. Map image copyright 2025 Microsoft.



Key	
	Planning permission
	Permitted development

	Ribble Crescent		Victoria Road		Old Police Station		Chorley Road		Blue Bridge
	Increase the height of the existing flood defence wall by approximately 0.5 m.		Replace the existing defence along a similar alignment and raise the height of the defences by approximately 0.3 m.		Strengthen the flood defence wall and raise it by approximately 0.1 m.		Remove an existing garden wall and construct a new flood wall up to 0.7m high.		Construct a new 1 m high embankment between Blue Bridge and Higher Walton Road.



Ribble Crescent

The proposed works will raise the height of the existing flood defence wall along Ribble Crescent by approximately 0.5 m. Glass panels will be installed on top of the existing flood defences to achieve the additional height.

Glass panels have been used across Phase 1 of the Scheme to increase the height and level of flood protection, while maintaining the views for residents and visitors. The glass panels form part of the defences and are strong enough to withstand the forces of flood water.

As the work in this area consists of raising the height of existing defences, it can be undertaken using permitted development rights. For more information on permitted development please see **Board 3**.



A visualisation of the proposals for Ribble Crescent

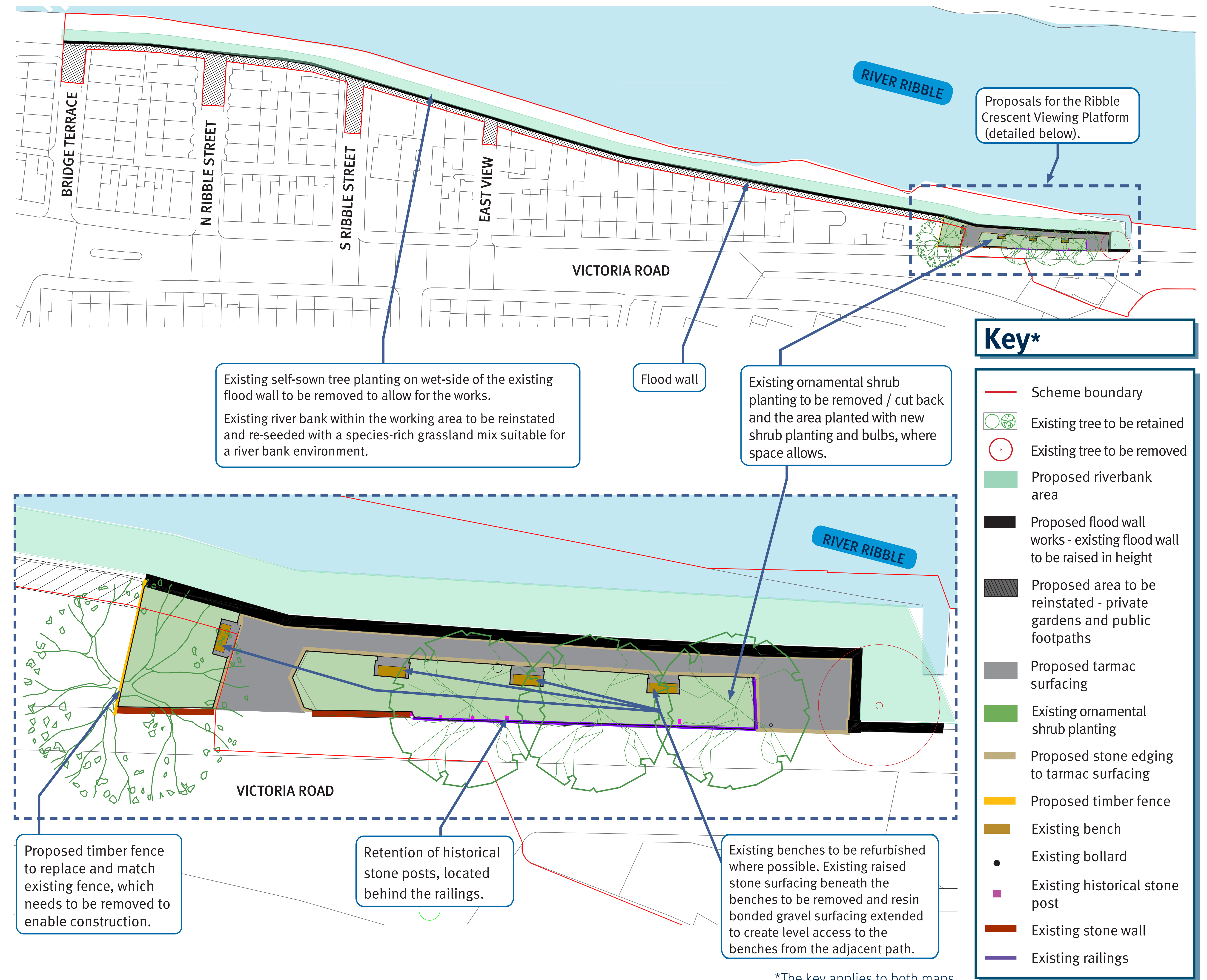
Construction approach

The construction of the raised defences at Ribble Crescent is anticipated to take around nine months.

Access will primarily be from the river side of the flood defences, using scaffolding to minimise disruption to private gardens. Limited access will be required from the landward side of the defences and directly affected residents have been contacted with further information. Access will also be required along adjacent streets, including Bridge Terrace, North Ribble Street and South Ribble Street.

Please see **Board 8** for more information around the general construction approach and proposals for construction compounds.

An overview map showing the proposals for Ribble Crescent



Victoria Road

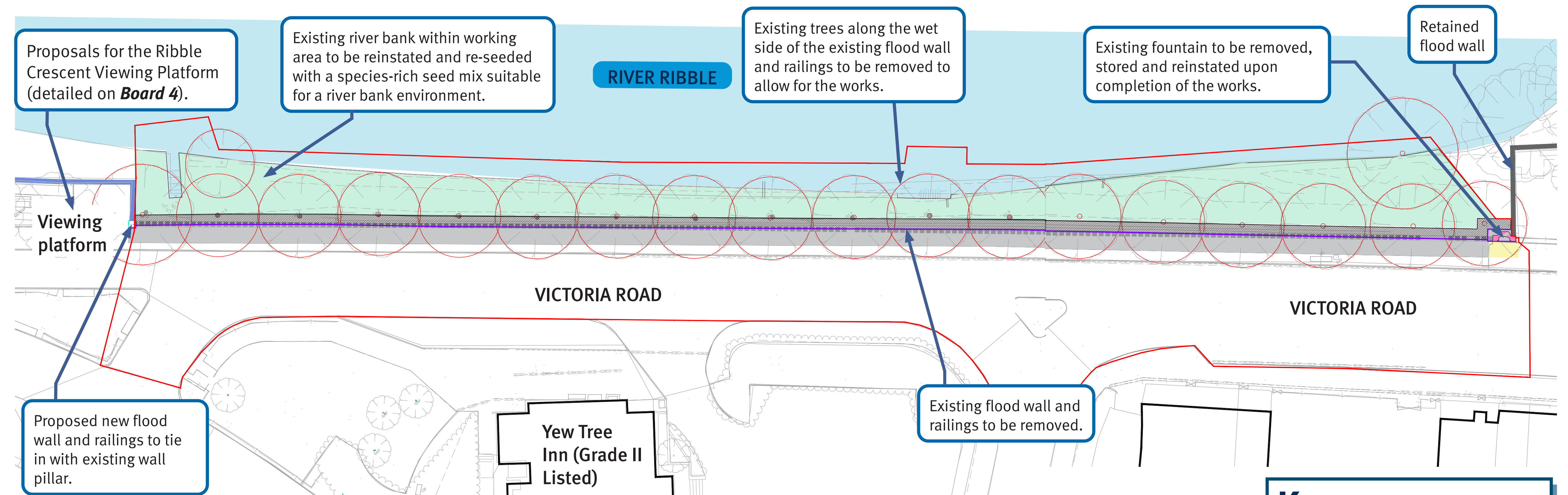
Along Victoria Road, the existing flood defence wall will be replaced with a new wall, increasing the height of the defences by approximately 0.3 m.

The new flood defence wall has been designed with large foundations, so that it is possible to raise the height of the defences in future, if needed.

The trees on the wet side of the existing wall will need to be removed to enable construction works and will be replaced in other locations across the Scheme in a ratio of 12:1. We are also exploring further ways to mitigate the tree loss; this includes looking into ways the wood can be reused, as well as taking cuttings from the trees.










As the proposals involve replacing the existing defences with a new wall, they require planning permission. For more information on what that means please see **Board 3**.

An overview map showing the proposals for Victoria Road



A visualisation of the proposals for Victoria Road

Key

- Scheme boundary
-  Existing tree to be retained
-  Existing tree to be removed
-  Existing flood wall to Viewing Platform
-  Existing flood wall
-  Existing flood wall and railings to be removed
-  Proposed new flood wall and railings
-  Existing asphalt within the working area to be reinstated if disturbed by the works.
-  Existing block paving within the working area to be reinstated if disturbed by the works.
-  Existing fountain to be removed, stored and reinstated upon completion of the works.

Construction approach

The construction of the new defences at Victoria Road is anticipated to take around 12 months.

Construction access will be from Victoria Road, and this will require the road to be closed throughout construction. An alternative route for traffic will be agreed with Lancashire County Council and a new temporary access to the Yew Tree pub will be created.

The water fountain on Victoria Road will be carefully dismantled and removed for safe storage and re-erected in the same location upon completion of the works.

Please see **Board 8** for more information around the general construction approach and proposals for construction compounds.



Blue Bridge

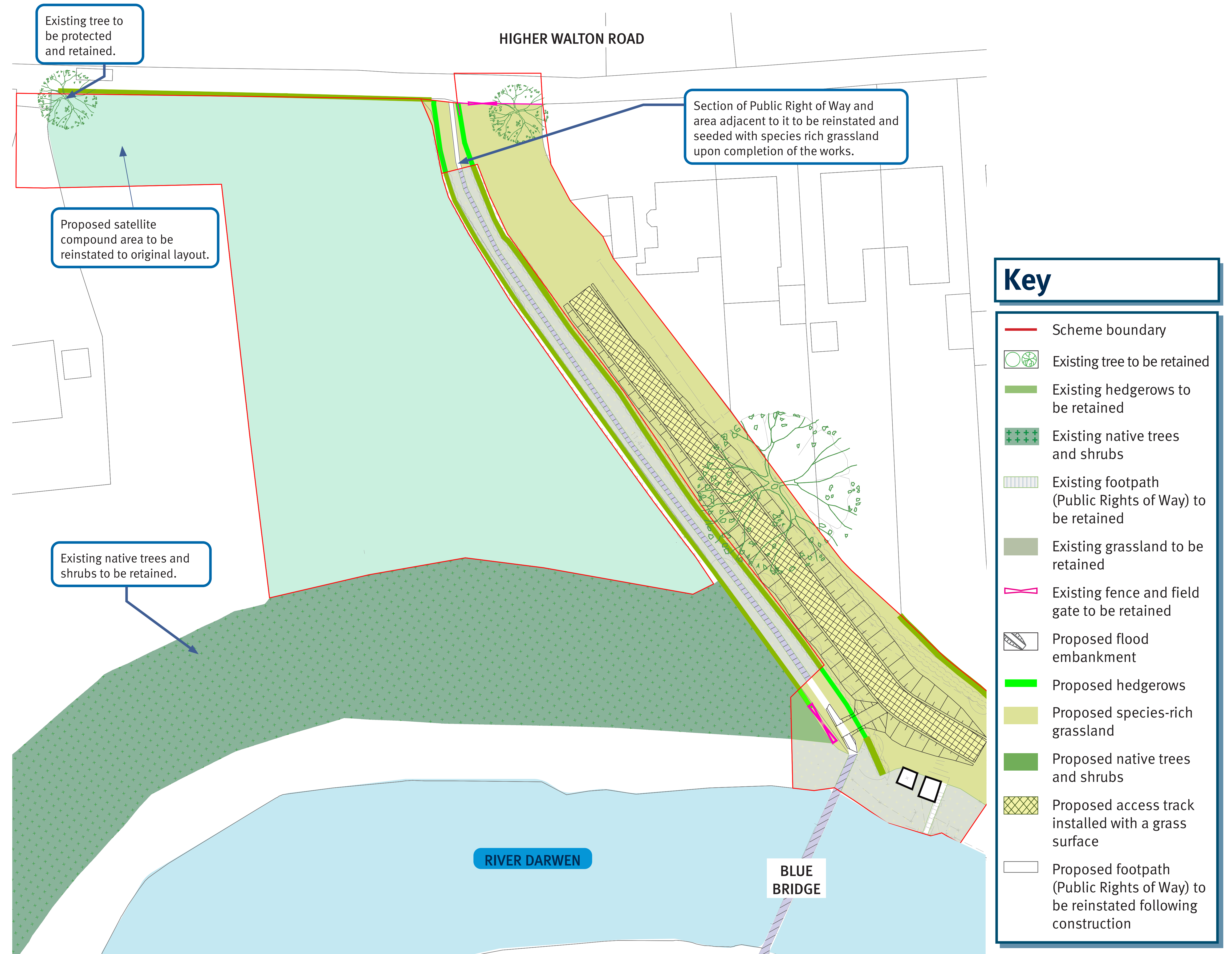
A low flood embankment will be constructed along the existing access track to the river and Environment Agency monitoring station, next to the public footpath. This embankment will enhance flood protection for Walton-le-Dale by reducing the risk of flooding along Higher Walton Road.

As the proposals are for a new flood defence, planning permission is required. For more information on what that means please see **Board 3**.



A visualisation of the proposals for Blue Bridge

An overview map showing the proposals for Blue Bridge



Construction approach

The construction of the new embankment is anticipated to take two months.

Access to the site will be through Blue Bridge Nursery and the Scheme may require the existing entrance to be widened. Construction of the embankment will be planned, to minimise disruption where possible.

The public right of way will be temporarily closed for the duration of the works for the safety of members of the public and the project team.

To facilitate these works a satellite compound will be required; more details around construction compounds and information around the general construction approach can be found on **Board 8**.



Chorley Road

The existing brick wall to the rear of the properties on Chorley Road will be removed and replaced with a reinforced flood defence wall. The new flood defence wall will be up to 0.7 m tall and will be clad in brick, with a wooden fence installed on top.

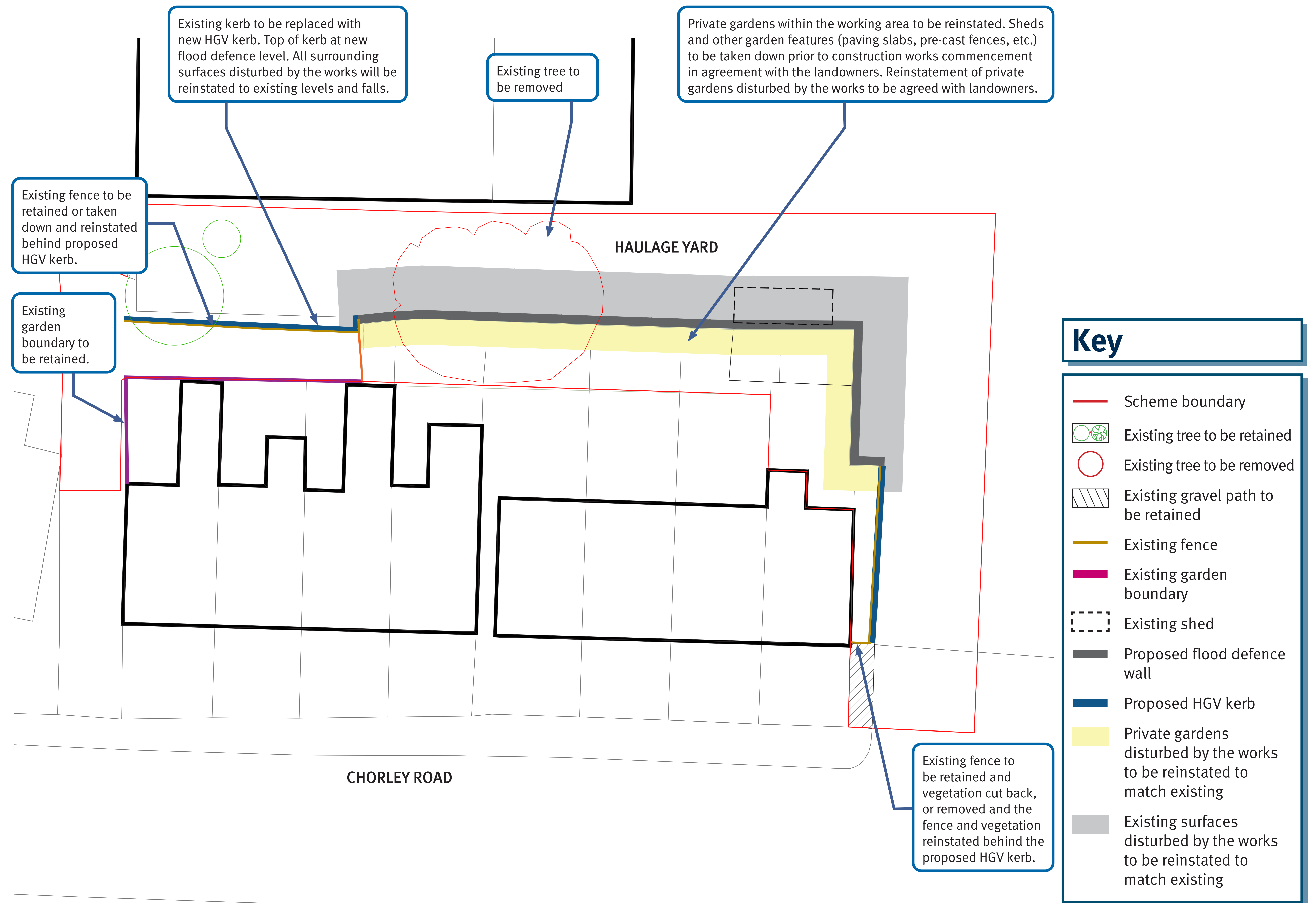
Where the change in height required to meet the flood defence level is small, a HGV standard kerb will be used to tie the new flood defence wall into the surrounding high ground.

As the proposals are for the creation of new flood defences, planning permission is required. For more information on what that means please see **Board 3**.



A visualisation of the proposals for Chorley Road

An overview map showing the proposals for Chorley Road



Construction approach

The construction of the new defences is anticipated to take four months.

Access to the site will be from the haulage yard and intermittently through the gardens of properties off Chorley Road. We have contacted residents who are directly impacted to share more details.

Please see **Board 8** for more information around the general construction approach and proposals for construction compounds.



Construction approach

Throughout construction, we will try to maintain access to homes and businesses.

Construction will be challenging in some areas as there are restricted working areas and ground and physical conditions have led to a complex design. In these locations we have to balance the need to keep everyone safe while minimising disruption to the community.



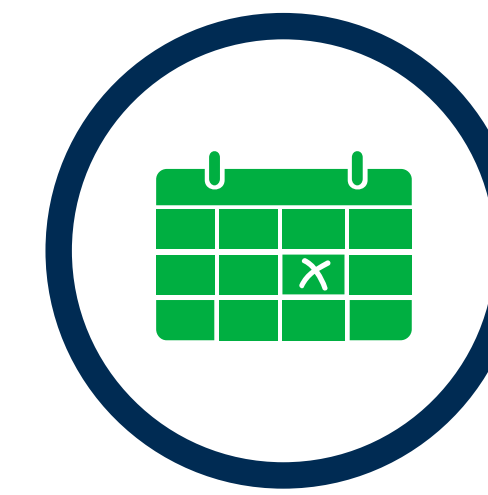
Example of a road closure that took place during Phase 1 of the Scheme



Construction compounds

Two construction compounds will be required for Phase 2 of the Scheme. A main compound will be established in the Park & Ride at the rear of the Capitol Centre. This will include site offices, welfare facilities and staff parking. There will be vehicle access and egress onto Grove Road and pedestrian access and egress onto Winery Lane.

A smaller satellite compound will be established off Higher Walton Road in Blue Bridge Nursery for the construction of the embankment at Blue Bridge.



Working hours

Our proposed working hours are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 2pm on Saturdays. Some construction activities once started must be completed, and this may mean work occasionally continues beyond 6pm. If possible, we will advise residents before any weekend working.

We are currently not anticipating any construction on Sundays, Bank Holidays or across nights.



Road closures

We will need to close some roads temporarily and put diversions in place. Pedestrian access to residential properties will be maintained for the duration of the works.

There may also be disruption to parking arrangements because of road closures. We will work closely with residents and businesses to address any accessibility requirements.

Traffic management plans will be developed in conjunction with Lancashire County Council Highways, and we will ensure any temporary road or lane closures are managed appropriately to minimise traffic disruption.



Disruption to gardens and reinstatement

We have contacted residents directly if construction will impact their property.



Noise, dust and vibration

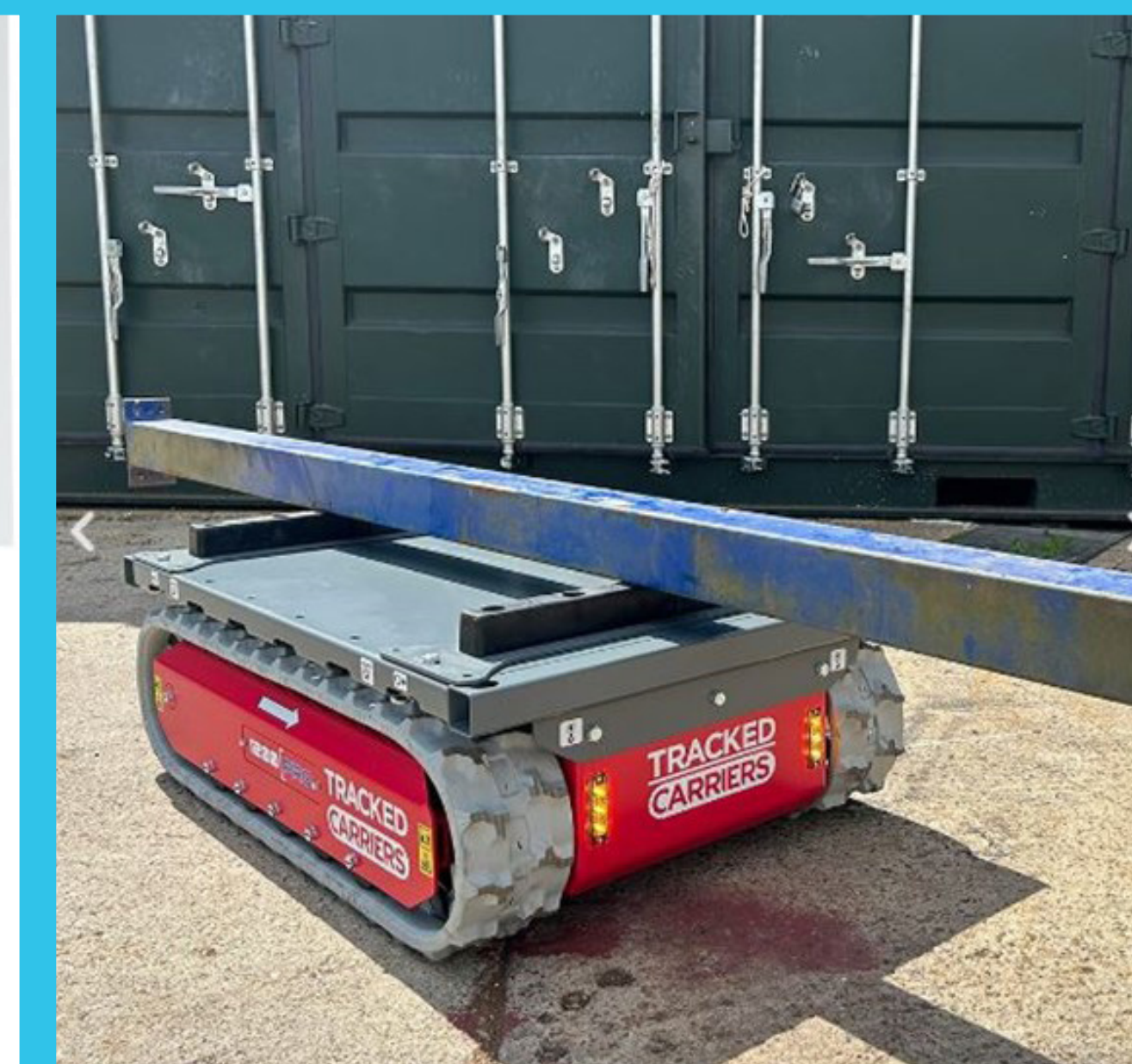
Construction may cause noise, dust and vibration, and we will monitor and manage levels and work to reduce any impact on homes, businesses, public areas, and the natural environment wherever possible. Several monitoring techniques will be used and there will be a range of measures to provide screening, which will assist with reducing noise and dust levels.

Construction machinery

A range of construction machinery will be used, including:

- Vacuum glass lifters
- Excavators
- Tracked cranes
- Sheep foot rollers

We have contacted directly impacted residents with more information relating to the construction plant they are likely to see on site, while works are ongoing.



Examples of construction plant to be used during Phase 2 of the Scheme



Environmental and social enhancements

Throughout the delivery of the Preston and South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme, the Environment Agency will continue to work with the local community and stakeholders to identify environmental and social enhancements.

Fishwick Bottoms

The Environment Agency is working in partnership with the Ribble Rivers Trust, Preston City Council and a tenant farmer to plant over 8,400 native trees along the riverbank at Fishwick Bottoms. These trees will be fenced off from the surrounding farmland to protect them from grazing pressure and will provide new habitat for riparian wildlife, such as otters, bats and kingfishers.

Trees can absorb and trap excess water and they also help to conserve fertile soils by preventing soil runoff. The trees that we plant will create new habitat for woodland birds, bats, and invertebrates. The trees will also help shade the river, preventing fish from overheating on sunny days. Without grazing, the riverbank vegetation will begin to grow back, solidifying the banks and preventing further erosion.



Semi-mature trees planted at Fishwick Bottoms



A whip planted at Fishwick Bottoms



Preston and South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme team planting trees at Fishwick Bottoms

Work with schools

The Environment Agency has worked closely with local schools across the Scheme, delivering educational sessions.

We have also worked with three schools to improve surface water drainage in playgrounds, installing features of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) wherever possible.

SuDS is a nature-based method to reduce surface water flood risk and improve water quality, by:

- Capturing rainwater runoff to reduce flood risk
- Storing runoff and releasing it slowly
- Slowing the flow of rain to drains
- Filtering out pollutants

The Environment Agency has worked with:

- Frenchwood Community Primary, Preston
- St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary, Lower Penwortham
- St Leonard's Primary C.E., Walton-le-Dale

The Environment Agency has installed permeable surfacing, rainwater planters, water butts, trees and more.



St Leonard's C.E. Primary school



St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary school



Next steps

Planning permission from South Ribble Borough Council will be required for certain elements of the Scheme, while others fall under permitted development. For more details on the differences between planning permission and permitted development, please refer to Board 3.

Following this consultation, all feedback will be reviewed and considered as part of the ongoing development of the Scheme. This will help shape the design, inform the planning application process, and support decision-making, including the development of the construction methodology for Phase 2 works. A Statement of Community Involvement will also be produced and submitted as part of a planning application in Summer 2025.

Timeline



A visualisation of the proposals for Ribble Crescent

Feedback channels

You can share your views on our proposals by filling out the ‘Have your say’ form on the Flood Hub or using the paper copies available at the in-person events.

Comments can be submitted between **5 May and midnight on 5 June 2025**.

You can also visit our Information Hub at BAC/EE Sports and Social Club (off South Meadow Lane in Preston), which is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-3pm. Free parking is available.

For further information

Email: psr@environment-agency.gov.uk

