

Godalming Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) Final Newsletter

February 2020

Thank you from the team!



We have almost finished construction work on the Godalming Flood Alleviation Scheme. A small team will be returning to site soon.

We would like to say thank you for your understanding and support throughout the work.

A look back at the construction

There were four main construction features:

1. Sheet piling



2.

3. Cladding



4.

5. Drainage (including land drains, outfalls and pumping stations)



6.

Temporary piling to prevent water entering excavation works for the pumping station.

7. Environmental mitigation & enhancements

In-channel enhancements: gravel riffles to provide niche habitats for spawning fish and invertebrates; and bank re-profiling to provide shelter for fish fry and invertebrates, and a shallow margin suitable for more plant species.

Two 'scrapes' have been created to form man-made low spots in the floodplain, which will fill naturally producing a very shallow pond and valuable off-river habitat for plant and animal species, including frogs and newts.



Aerial view of scrape at Lammas Lands

A look back at what has been achieved...

Before



Upstream - October 2018



Mid-section - October 2018



Downstream - October 2018

After



Upstream - December 2019



Mid-section - December 2019



Downstream - December 2019

Opening ceremony

On Friday 11 October 2019 the scheme was officially unveiled by Jeremy Hunt MP and the Chair of the Environment Agency Emma Howard-Boyd.



Emma Howard Boyd, the Environment Agency's Chair said:

"This innovative flood scheme project is an example of how partnership working at all levels can achieve fantastic results. As the impacts of the climate emergency become more apparent, making communities like Godalming more resilient is the Environment Agency's top priority and builds on the Government's £2.6 billion investment in flood and coastal defences up and down the country."

Trial deployment of temporary barrier

Trial deployments of the temporary barrier across Catteshall Bridge and associated signage were undertaken on 11 October between 09:00 and 14:00.

The deployments were successful and the team deployed the barrier quickly and efficiently.



The trigger point for the temporary barrier deployment is quite complicated and in reality many factors come into play; however, it has been summarised as follows: A combination of the Bordon rain gauge receiving more than 30mm of rain on a saturated catchment and/or river levels forecast to exceed the Flood Warning level at Westbrook Mill.

Key Statistics

- 525m flood wall clad with Accoya®
- Reduces the risk of flooding to 90 properties in the Meadow and Catteshall areas of Godalming
- Flood wall built to withstand a flood with a 0.5% probability of one occurring in any year, plus a provision for climate change
- 9 outfalls have been installed or adapted
- 2 pumping stations installed to pump out a combined total of 84 litres per second

Going forward....

This is the last newsletter. The Environment Agency is drafting a separate letter for each of the properties to clarify legal aspects for landowners.

Early 2020 TVO and the EA expects to:

- finish the planting in the gardens
- commission the pumping station
- install the kiosk for the temporary barrier
- review conditions at the allotment (if necessary undertake remedial works)
- complete the reinstatement of the site compound and haul route area on Lammas Lands as currently it is too wet.



Aerial view of completed flood wall at the allotments

Who to contact regarding future queries/concerns about the defence

If you notice a defect, vandalism or problem with the defence then this should be reported directly to our incident line on:

0800 80 70 60.

Prepare for flooding

Although we work to reduce flood risk, we cannot remove it entirely. You can find out more about what to do before, during and after a flood by visiting

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding

If you have any queries about the information contained in this briefing or would like to be added to our mailing list please contact:

Enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you see blockages in the river channel which pose an immediate flood risk then this should be reported directly to our incident line on:

0800 80 70 60

Where can I find out more?

You can find out more about the scheme on the project webpage:

<https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/godalming-flood-alleviation-scheme>

Phone: 03708 506 506 Environment Agency National Contact Centre

Phone: 0800 80 70 60 Environment Agency Incident hotline (24 hour service)