

Godalming Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) August 2019 Newsletter

August 2019

Recent progress

We have continued to make good progress with the cladding, drainage, outfalls and the large pump station at Catteshall Road allotments.

Work has continued on the reinstatement of the gardens and installation of steps over the floodwall. Most of the "hard landscaping" work (e.g. patios and fences) is now complete. We are currently undertaking the "soft landscaping" (planting). We are in regular contact with affected residents.

Work has also commenced on the Lammas lands scrapes to improve the habitat (see further information later on in this newsletter).

We have also started excavation work for the pumping station at Meadow Court (downstream of the bridge). This pumping station is smaller than the one at the Catteshall Road allotments.



Next steps

We are planning to:

- complete the last 5 m section of wall adjacent to the bridge. This has presented specific challenges because of the gas pipe and foul sewer. A way forward has been agreed with Thames Water and Southern Gas Network.
- continue installing steps over the flood wall
- continue the scrapes on Lammas Lands
- commission the pump station at Catteshall Road allotments
- carry out in-channel enhancements, in Hell Ditch, to regulate the flow and increase biodiversity
- continue reinstatement of gardens
- continue pumping station works at Meadow Court.

Target date for completion of the main construction works, subject to weather conditions, remains late-summer 2019.

Work at Catteshall Road for the demountable flood barrier

We are currently in the process of finalising details of the proposed demountable barrier.

This includes type of barrier, tie in details, storage location, supplier and agreeing the deployment protocol. Details are being discussed with residents and Godalming Flood Group.

The demountable barrier across Catteshall Road will only be deployed when flood water levels are high. Triggers for deployment are being agreed with the highways authority, Surrey County Council.

We know the demountable barrier proposals are of particular local interest. We will therefore be meeting Godalming Flood Group on 22 August to provide further information.



Ecological Work on Lammas Lands.

Over late-July and August, Team Van Oord and the Environment Agency will be working to improve the Lammas Lands habitat by creating two wetland scrapes.

Scrapes (see photo below) are shallow dips that are created using an excavator to improve floodplain habitats. This low spot will hold water seasonally and provide important habitat for plant and animal species, including birds, frogs and newts.

We have selected to do the work now (the driest time of year) so that an excavator can work on the Lammas Lands without getting stuck in the mud and causing unnecessary damage to the site.

During the work users of Lammas Lands will be able to access the site using the usual access points.



Photo showing first scrape on Lammas Lands

Would you like to visit the scheme?

On Wednesday 11 September at 14:00, we will be holding another site meeting for residents. This will provide an opportunity for residents to find out more about the work involved in this scheme.

The meeting will last for around an hour. For safety reasons we will not be going into the working area and you will not need protective equipment. You will be accompanied by members of the project team from the Environment Agency and Team Van Oord.

As numbers are limited booking is essential. To book a place, please email angela.spinks@mackley.co.uk stating your name, with details of any specific requirements.

Each tour is different, so you can attend more than one if you wish.

What if there is a flood prior to completion of construction?

We would provide temporary protection in the event of a flood.

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?

The posters at the site entrance are updated regularly with progress information.

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: 07703 452 752 TVO Public Liaison Officer - Angela Spinks

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

