

Tenbury Wells Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) - May 2022

Site surveys

Following feedback from our November 2021 public engagement drop-in sessions, we carried out additional topographical (ground level) surveys in order to further inform our flood model. The surveys took place in key locations around the town, including along Kyre Brook and in Burford.

The completed surveys have now been assessed and have enabled the project team to add confidence to the flood model, which will in turn be used to inform the scheme design.

Ongoing project activities

Discussions remain ongoing with key heritage stakeholders and the Hereford Anglican Church. The aim is to develop a design to best increase resilience of St. Mary's Church whilst not compromising the integrity of the proposed flood defence. The intention is to keep any disturbance to burial plots within the graveyard to a minimum.

A number of properties within Tenbury have been identified as potentially benefitting from Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. These properties are at risk of flooding but not directly protected by the scheme. They were identified based on an assessment of the flood model and feedback from residents at the public engagement events. Property surveys are due to take place in the coming weeks.

The latest review of the design has allowed the project team to undertake another cost estimation of the scheme which has identified higher costs than initially estimated at the Initial Assessment stage. The reasons for this cost increase are due to the increased complexity of the engineering constraints, unforeseen changes in design, and industry wide increases in material costs.

Inflation and industry wide cost increases have caused most construction material costs to rise by 20% in the last 12 month period – some, including steel, cement, and bricks by much more.

These complex challenges have also impacted the timeframes of key milestones for the project, with projected planning submission now estimated to be late autumn 2022, with the aim to start construction by spring 2023.

We are continuing to progress with the Environmental Impact Assessment, which forms part of the planning process for the scheme, and engineering options for the Burgage recreation ground, Church Street, Teme Bridge and the Kyre Brook. We are also continuing our discussions with key stakeholders and local landowners on potential biodiversity gains.

Next steps

Working with partners, the project team are undertaking a review of the design to assess where greater value can be achieved from an engineering perspective, looking again at

where the scheme can achieve greater benefits to improve the benefit cost ratio, and investigating additional funding sources.

The project team will be finalising the remaining elements of the design and consulting stakeholders and landowners to work towards a final design for all locations within the scheme. The final design will form part of the planning application submission which is projected to be in late autumn 2022.

As the scheme will be community operated, we will be working with the local community to develop a flood plan in the coming months. The scheme's construction is due to start in spring 2023, aiming for full completion in winter 2024, depending on funding, approvals and any unforeseen engineering challenges on site.

Frequently asked question document (FAQ)

We have produced an FAQ document for this scheme, which is saved on our online information page - the link is included in the 'Further information' section below. This FAQ document will be added to and updated as the scheme progresses, so please continue to refer to this document in the first instance if you have any questions.

Further information

We will continue to provide regular updates about the scheme through our newsletters and online information page which can be accessed through <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/tenbury-wells-flood-risk-management-scheme>.

If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email your contact details to Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk or call our National Customer Contact Centre during office hours on 03708 506 506 and we will add you to our mailing list.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.