

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

Background

The Tenbury Wells Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) aims to reduce the risk of flooding from the River Teme and Kyre Brook. The proposed scheme is estimated to provide increased river flood protection to 120 residential properties and 145 commercial properties in Tenbury Wells.

Reaching a milestone: Outline Business Case

The project team have been working very hard on completing the Outline Business Case (OBC) and are delighted to have had this important milestone signed off this month. This means that the project has received internal approval and the development of the scheme's programme can now go into further detail, which includes the planning application.

It is an integral part of the project development, and even though it is not visible to the public, it means that the project can continue to detail design, planning application and full business case.

Ongoing project activities

Since we updated you in November, the project team continue to:

Look at ways in which we can find additional benefits through re-evaluating the flood model for the scheme. This approach aims to increase the viability of the scheme.

Assess what Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures may be suitable for each of the properties which were surveyed. This work is being carried out in partnership with those homeowners.

Continue to engage with the Hereford Anglican Church concerning the scheme's design around the church and the churchyard. There is ongoing dialogue with the heritage stakeholders in regards to the church specifically. The other heritage sensitive areas of the scheme also continue to be addressed.

Collaboration with Tenbury Town Council, the Flood Action Group and the Fire Service to develop the community-led Flood Action Plan is progressing.

Funding Gap

The Flood Risk Management Scheme in Tenbury Wells is a complex design. It must consider the significant context of the area such as heritage, history, the environment and working within the church graveyard.

There continues to be a funding gap, and the project team continue to explore opportunities to reduce the capital costs of the scheme and increase the scheme's benefits by working with our partners. We also continue to explore design modifications and value engineering to achieve a viable scheme.

All partners, including the Environment Agency, Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council are working very hard to bridge this gap.

We have applied for additional sources of funding which could satisfy this demand, and we expect an update on some of our funding applications soon.

Next steps

Now that the internal approval of the scheme has been reached, we will move onto more detailed stages of the project. This includes developing the planning application, which we hope to submit in spring 2023, and building the Full Business Case.

The final design is still being developed, and the project team continues to consult stakeholders and landowners to work towards a final design for all locations. This will be included in the planning application.

Our timeframes depend on a variety of factors, including securing the funding shortfall, obtaining necessary approvals, and any unforeseen engineering challenges on site. The latest estimation of our timeframe is that we hope to receive approval of the planning in summer 2023, and that the construction will begin in late 2023, which is expected to last between 18-24months.

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 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 it 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.