

Environment Agency Update

Beales Corner, Bewdley

December 2022

The Environment Agency project team, together with the local community and local authorities, is working to develop a flood risk management scheme for Beales Corner in Bewdley. This newsletter is to provide the latest update on the project.

Following flooding in the town in 2020, your local Member of Parliament, Worcestershire County Council, Wyre Forest District Council, and Bewdley Town Council have been working with the Environment Agency to further reduce flood risk in the town. Worcestershire County Council have made £500,000 available towards a flood risk management scheme, which was further supported by £6.2 million of Government funding. This was subject to there being a viable and cost-effective proposal which was economically viable with public money.

The solution

The team initially explored a long list of flood risk reduction options like attenuation and channel improvements as well as raised flood defence options. The final and most viable option consists of a combination of demountable flood barriers and permanent raised walls with glass panels on top to maintain views across the river.

The photos below show the approximate alignment and extent of the proposed demountable defences by the Quayside and gives an artist impression of what the defences may look like on other sections of the scheme.



The design aims for this scheme are to:

- Reduce flood risk to people, properties, businesses, and highways resulting from overtopping of the River Severn
- Deliver a flood risk management scheme that is supported by the local community
- Integrate with and where possible enhance the natural environment, biodiversity and heritage value of the area
- Design and develop a scheme which has minimal operational and maintenance requirements
- Provide the same standard of protection as provided by the Severnside flood defence on the right bank.
- Ensure the bridge remains open during flooding, benefiting the entire community of Bewdley.



Progress update

In September we received confirmation that the Outline Business Case had been approved. This is an integral part of project development and means that the project can progress through the planning application stage.

We are pleased to inform you that the planning application was submitted on 16/12/2022. All planning documents including the Flood Risk Assessment will be viewable on the Wyre Forest District Council planning portal once fully registered.



The team has had positive and productive meetings with the utility providers. We have developed a good working relationship with the utility providers who will be undertaking vital service diversions ahead of the scheme.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

In October 2022 we undertook a drop-in event. This was very well attended with over 200 members of the Bewdley community in attendance. This gave us the opportunity to show you how the final design of the scheme has progressed, based on the efforts of the design team and feedback we had previously received from the public.



Next steps

Over the coming months we will focus on:

- Development and approval of the Full Business Case
- Public Engagement meeting early spring 2023
- Aim to start utility diversions in spring 2023
- Anticipated start of construction summer 2023

The public engagement meeting in the spring will focus on the construction phase of the scheme, outlining what the construction programme is likely to be as well as the levels of disturbance to the town. It is inevitable that there will be a need for temporary site and clearance works to allow the contractors to work safely. There is also likely to be road closures and traffic control. We want to use this session to talk through details of any disturbance during construction and can assure you that we will be keeping this as low as we can. This is all subject to gaining planning approval and having the Final Business Case approved.

Contact Us

More information will follow, but in the meantime, please contact BLBFRMS@Environment-Agency.gov.uk if you have any queries or comments. Alternatively, please contact us via your town council.

We're on Twitter: Please follow @EnvAgencyMids

We're on Facebook: www.facebook.com/environmentagency

On the web: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/bealesfrms/>

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