

Environment Agency Update

Beales Corner, Bewdley

June 2023

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

For further information on the scheme and the delivery journey to date, please see: [Beales Corner, Bewdley, Flood Risk Management Scheme](#)

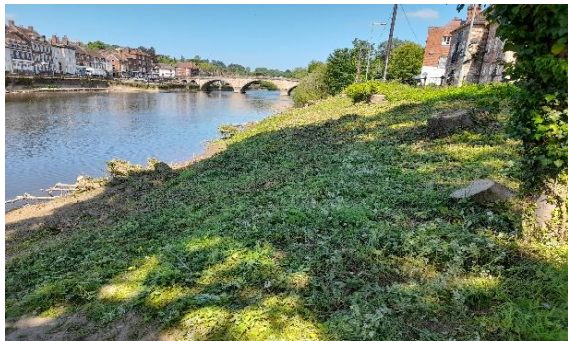


Photo taken during the vegetation clearance and utility diversions, February 2023

What we have done over recent months

We submitted a planning application for the scheme on 16 December 2022. This was granted on 14 February 2023. The planning documents can be found here: [22/1034/FUL](#)

In February, we removed trees and vegetation along the waterfront by Beales Corner before bird nesting season to help enable the works to start on the flood risk management scheme construction later in the year. As well as the post construction on-site reinstatement, the Environment Agency will undertake off-site tree planting, enhance woodland areas, and improve areas of grassland, including scrub management to compensate for the vegetation loss. These actions will achieve a significant biodiversity net gain (BNG) for the project.



Photos of the site after vegetation clearance in February 2023

In March we conducted Topographical Surveys of the riverbank along Stourport road, measuring up features on the ground and plotting the those features to produce a map (plan) of the area. BT Openreach and National Grid also conducted surveys to prepare for utility diversions along Kidderminster and Stourport road. This is to ensure that the piled foundation will not damage these utilities.

Severn Trent Water undertook work to create a series of trial holes on Stourport Road to confirm the exact location of their utilities. The outcomes of those surveys are critical to continue work on the Severn Trent Water utility diversion, which is likely to take place in summer 2023 as the main construction work starts.

In May, our contractor conducted bathymetric surveys in Bewdley to measure the depth, and to map the underwater features of the river. These surveys have allowed our contractor to complete the temporary works design, and temporary working platforms will be built on the river side of the new flood walls while the scheme is constructed to offer a safe working platform. Once the construction work is completed then these structures and working platforms will be removed.

In June, our contractors are conducting additional topographic surveys of the riverbank (an area previously inaccessible due to high river levels) to finalise the construction methodology.

The Environment Agency will continue to maintain the vegetation and check for wildlife along the river front to ensure that it does not delay the start of the construction work.



Photos taken during bathymetric surveys

Next steps

The project is moving forward, and we now expect that construction will begin in summer 2023.

There will be a drop-in event on 27 June at St George's Hall, Bewdley, to update the community on the scheme and the likely impacts from the construction phase. We would like to welcome you to this event to learn about the scheme, the construction plan, and to have the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Over the following months, we will focus on:

- Public Engagement drop in event on 27 June, 2023
- Discharging planning conditions
- Contractor setting up the site compound – summer 2023
- Main construction phase – late summer 2023
- Ongoing Continuation of delivery of the utility alterations – summer 2023

As we move closer to the start of the construction phase we shall provide further details on the programme. The construction phase is estimated to take approximately eighteen months to two years. Once the construction phase commences it will not be possible to deploy the temporary barrier, so residents will need to make preparations to ensure that they are prepared for any flooding.

Over the coming months we will talk with affected communities about what measures can be taken in times of flooding while the construction is in progress.

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.

Alternatively, please come along to the drop-in session on 27 June 2023 at St George's Hall, Bewdley (Load Street, Bewdley, DY12 2EQ) from 12pm – 7pm.

We are on Twitter: Please follow @EnvAgencyMids

We are on Facebook: www.facebook.com/environmentagency

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