

# Lower Mole Update

November 2021

## Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme Update

Following our engagement with the local community in early 2021 we stated in our August engagement report that we hoped to announce a preferred option by the end of this year. Due to the large volume of feedback received and our commitment to ensuring we have explored all possible options to update the scheme and mitigation solutions, this announcement has been delayed into next year.

Our project team are currently working their way through a number of potential mitigations that address the concerns raised by the local community about some aspects of the scheme. This is a significant piece of work and we want to allow enough time to ensure we have addressed all concerns expressed before refining our options to present to the Project Board. Once this work has been completed we will of course notify all stakeholders and members of the local community.

In the meantime we will continue to update our project Citizens Space page with any news on the scheme alongside our regular maintenance updates.

## Maintenance Update

Over the Winter months our teams will be working on the structures along the Mole for regular maintenance. Some of the works will involve lowering the water levels.

### Zenith Weir

We are currently working on two elements of the weir. Firstly, the two radial gates will receive new wire ropes to restore them to full working order. Secondly, a new eel pass is to be installed to replace the existing one, this was removed earlier in the year as it was found to be badly corroded. It will be necessary to temporarily lower the water level upstream of Zenith Weir to install the new pass. We expect the gate work to be carried out in December, with the eel pass following on in February.



Zenith Weir

We will also be maintaining and in some places installing/replacing the fencing along the River Mole and Ember. This is mainly in the areas near Jasmine Way and near Hampton Court Way Bridge. This is in response to reports of trespassers and also for our Operatives safety. There is also similar work planned to take place upstream of Viaduct.



Island Barn Weir

### Molembur Weir

We will be correcting a fault in the operation of the tilting gate and the Control Hut will also receive upgraded control panels. We will also be working on the expansion joints along the flood wall between Esher Road and Zenith Weir. The sealant in the joints are starting to fail and will need to be raked out and resealed to maintain the flood walls standard of protection. We will begin by cutting back the vegetation growing on or over the flood wall to allow for our contractors to access the joints from the Ember side. This work will also give us the opportunity to fully inspect our asset to ensure it is continuing to reduce flood risk.



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## Royal Mills Weir

We will be continuing our work following the failure of the asset last year. Whilst the weir is now operating, we have discovered significant cracks and failures in the river wall nearest to the industrial estate which now need to be addressed.



Royal Mills Weir



Wing Wall Damage at Royal Mills

## Island Barn Weir

We are making arrangements for work to commence on the tilting gate. Downstream of Island Barn we are expecting to repair the left-hand bank which was damaged in the flooding of 2013/14. These works may require the temporary lowering of water levels. Any lowering will be early in the new year to reduce any risks to fish and wildlife.

## Viaduct Weir

We will be working on the actuators and drive systems for the control gates. We will need to carry out further desilting and rubbish removal of the build-up on the debris boom just upstream of the railway line. This along with the work to Royal Mills will require local lowering of river levels in the new year.

Finally, all the Mole scheme weir gates have wire ropes attached, these are now at an age when they need to be replaced with new cables. We are looking to achieve this piece of work this financial year. This should be carried out with little change to water levels as we will be installing 'stop logs' to retain the levels whilst the work proceeds.

If you have any questions about the maintenance works, please get in touch with our area team  
[APT.MoleandSouthLondon@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:APT.MoleandSouthLondon@environment-agency.gov.uk).