



Bewdley Left Bank Flood Risk Management Project Update

August 2024

Piling across the scheme is now complete, with 189 piles installed in total. The piling went well, with varying degrees of difficulty. We made very good progress in the early stages, sometimes getting 4 or 5 piles installed in a day. Conversely, where the sandstone bedrock was higher and harder than anticipated, the piling was more difficult, and we were at times only getting 1 pile in per day. Piling progress was also limited during the extended flooding of last winter. High river levels and saturated ground conditions reduced the ability of our contractors to undertake any below ground works.



In Area 5 (Millside Court) the flood wall core is now in complete. The fittings for the glass wall top and reinforcement for the flood gates are in place ready to move to that stage of the scheme.



The concrete core wall in Area 4 (Stourport Road, Millside Court end) is complete, with only some drainage work to undertake. This drainage work is to ensure that flood defence doesn't impact on the current surface water drainage regime in the area.



Much of the Area 3 (Stourport Road) wall is in place, with a short section as it moves into Area 2 still to be complete. The piles are in Place in Area 2 (Stourport Rd/Kidderminster Rd junction) with the piles due to be cropped and cleaned in the coming days. We crop the piles in order to prepare them for pile capping stage, and the pile capping is the structure we put in place on top of the piles in order to connect and create strength in one flood defence structure.

The blinding is complete, as is the capping beam up to the Severn Trent Pumping Station. This is a complicated part of the scheme with a lot of piles in close proximity. This requires complex temporary

works arrangement as the operatives work in confined spaces. Due to the close proximity of piles and underground services in this location, we are using a vacuum excavation method. This method uses air suction to remove soil and rock from an area, as opposed to physical removal of material with an excavator, and although this method is slower than the traditional excavation method, it reduces the risk that the piles and underground services are not damaged.



All the piling is complete in Area 1 (Adjacent to the bridge) and the ground compacted. As with all the piles throughout the scheme these will have to go through integrity testing before the next stage of the flood wall build.

There will be an archaeological dig in Area 1 to document any part of the quay wall that may remain but need to be removed. This will be completed with after discussion and approval from the relevant heritage authorities.

The piling in Area 0 (Pleasant Harbour) is also complete now, with integrity testing to come. The scheme has worked in close partnership with the various utility companies to relocate the underground services in preparation for the installation of the flood wall.



With the piling in place the next stage will be putting in the trench sheets, exposing and cropping the piles and putting the concrete blinding in place. This will allow us to put the capping beam in place and move on to the steel re-enforcement and flood wall concrete core.

Our contractors Jackson and the project team as a whole have been working well with the local community. These good relations enabled us to work closely with the Rowing Club to assist in a successful Summer Regatta.

We have also recently led a series of site walkovers to present our progress, with opportunity for key stakeholders and residents to ask questions and get an indication of future work and timescales.

Please note that in the coming months we will be moving from weekly updates to monthly updates, both through these updates and an intention to give updates as through 'The Bridge' magazine. However, we can still be contacted directly using the dedicated scheme email account

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