



Bewdley Left Bank Flood Risk Management Project Update 2024

Since the completion of the CFA piles install and commencement of capping beam and pile cap construction earlier in the year, the site team have made great progress, casting the reinforced flood wall.

They have completed a substantial amount of the concrete pours for the flood wall, with only a small section needing to be finished for the part of the wall that joins the demountable section (area 1), to the section at the junction of Stourport Road and Kidderminster Road (area 2).

The laying of cladding brickwork for the wall has progressed well and is nearing completion for the parts of the already constructed wall on the site. These bricks have been manufactured by Ibstock and were chosen by heritage specialists as the best match with surrounding buildings.



The coping stones are due to go on top of the wall soon. They are made of reconstituted stone that matches the colour and texture of the new sandstone found on the Grade I-listed bridge.

Reconstituted stone is being used as it will ensure accurate levels for the wall. A line of these blocks has also been used in a feature band on the wet side of the wall to form a break in the continuous expanse of brickwork on the highest section of the wall.

Four out of the five floodgates have now been installed and fixed to the newly built wall. The flood gates will have rubber seals, angled thresholds and locking mechanisms that pull the doors tight. Manufacturer MME has designed the floodgates with a demountable testing system that is filled with water and can test whether the floodgates are watertight.

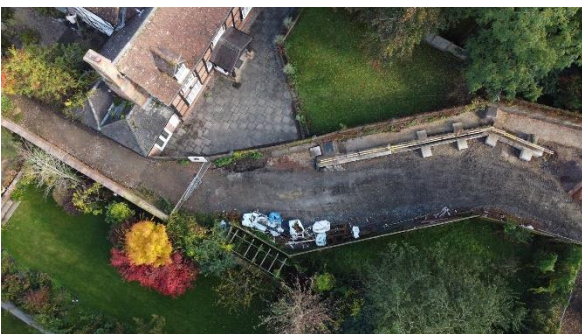


As we enter 2025, we are gearing up for the final stages of the flood wall which will include the remainder of the concrete walls followed by the install of the brick cladding and coping stones. We are currently also having the demountable panels in areas 1 and 2, and the glass panels along Stourport Road to the end of the scheme at Millside Court (Areas 3, 4 & 5) manufactured and tested off site. Once installed on site, there will be a period of onsite testing and training for quality assurance.

When the scheme is complete, the demountable barriers will be deployed in Areas 1 & 2 in periods of flood. This maintains public access to those areas outside deployment periods. The Glass panels in Areas 2, 3, 4 & 5 will act as the final flood defence whilst preserving the views across the river.

We will also be commencing installation of drainage works in areas 1 and 5. This will release the areas for hard landscaping (Paving stones, reinstating kerbs, benches and road cambers) and soft landscaping (Preparing areas for planting) early & into the middle of 2025.

The majority of the flood wall is complete in the Pleasant Harbour area (area 0) of the scheme, with the sections tying into high ground, and the section to tie into the bridge to be completed early in the new year.



Rock bags on the riverbank are to be removed around summer 2025 and the final stage of the wall build concluded.

Our site teams work does not end with just engineering successes. Our site team have been engaging with the community and providing social value throughout the community; be it supporting environmental music festivals, performing monthly litter-picks in partnership with Wyre Forest District

Council, sponsoring local Kidderminster u10's rugby tournament or raising money for the KEMP hospice for Christmas.



The site team have shown real tenacity to support local causes in Bewdley and help support the community where they can.

Please see below link and QR code to a short video update of some of the great work that has been undertaken in 2024:

<https://youtu.be/3u9JnwEBACg>



As communicated a few weeks ago, the site team will shut down work operations for a fortnight over the Christmas period. The bridge will be open to two-way traffic from 1pm on Dec 20th until 11pm Sunday 5th January. Works will start again on January 2nd 2025.

We have all collectively experienced the very real flood risk Bewdley faces over the last few months and weeks especially with Storms Bert and Darragh. Highlighting the need for these essential works to be constructed. We continue to work closely with all stakeholders to identify efficiencies that may improve our completion date /reduce traffic management measures sooner, if possible.

To round off this Christmas update, we would like to thank the Bewdley community for their patience with these works.

As ever we can still be contacted directly using the dedicated scheme email account BLBFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.