

Severn Stoke Flood Alleviation Scheme – September 2023

This update provides the latest information on the delivery of the Severn Stoke Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Recent Work

Since our last update we have been working on scheme prices and affordability of the project. Scheme affordability in line with HM Treasury spending rules remains the key delivery challenge for the project.

We have been working with our framework supplier to try and agree a target price to undertake the earth works that is affordable for the project. This is complicated from a commercial perspective due to not all material currently being on site. Unfortunately, we have not been able to agree an affordable target price and are not able to proceed with the earth works currently as originally planned. We are now exploring alternative government frameworks, while we do not normally use these frameworks, they are generally suppliers aligned to deliver smaller projects and we are therefore hopeful to be able to reach an affordable price with them. Due to our procurement rules, we were not able to approach these other frameworks until we have exhausted negotiations with our framework supplier.

While we have not been able to agree an affordable price with a contractor for the earth works yet, other elements of the scheme are continuing. This includes the newt trapping, installation of further site fencing and tree clearance. This will be followed by the import of the remaining embankment material this autumn/winter.

Archaeology works have now been completed, and this creates extra space to import fill material for the embankments. By having all material on site this should help reduce the commercial risk associated with this and help drive down construction costs.

What does all this mean?

- This means that the earth works will not be completed this autumn. Earth works are now likely to start spring 2024 assuming that we can agree an affordable price with a supplier.
- We have not given up on this scheme. We have always said that the affordability challenge is the key issue to overcome, this is why a scheme has never been delivered in the past and the affordability challenge remains true today – but we have not given up and continue to explore all options.
- As always, we encourage all property owners to consider what personal resilience measures they can take to minimise the impacts of flooding and encourage everyone to ensure that their details are up to date on the Flood Warning Service.

Future updates

We will continue to keep you updated with the progress of the scheme via future newsletters and updates to the Parish Council and the Flood Action Group.

Contact us

We appreciate that this is not the news that you wanted to hear as a community. We have organised a public drop in event to be held in October at St Denys' Church in Severn Stoke where we welcome you to come along and talk to us about the scheme and any concerns that you may have. We will contact you in due course when we have confirmed the date.

If you have any queries or comments about the proposed scheme, please contact the Environment Agency Project Manager via email at paul.jones2@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 03708 506 506. Thank you for taking the time to read this update.