Keeping you informed: Lower Bootham flood defence improvements

June 2020

We want to update you on our progress so far, and our response to COVID-19 to ensure we can continue with our work to better protect this area from flooding whilst keeping public safety and wellbeing a top priority

Return to site

Our contractor BAM Nuttall have returned to site to continue with the construction of Lower Bootham flood defence improvements. We are following the latest guidance from Public Health England regarding safe working on construction sites.

In order for us to return our contractors have been trained in safe ways of working and will not put anyone at risk. If the work cannot be done safely it will stop. The safety of our staff, partners and the communities we work in remains a priority for us.

The response to COVID-19 has meant changes to our programme but we are confident that with the measures we have in place, the effects of this pandemic on our work can be kept to an absolute minimum. A map showing the different phases can be seen at the end of the newsletter.

Progress Update

In preparation for this next phase of work our contractors have been setting up the site compound at St. Peters school field. They are also ensuring adequate access routes are in place from the compound, alongside the existing embankment, and down to Almery Terrace.

Work to the transition wall which connects the embankment into the Almery flood wall is now starting as the access track is complete. We are still working towards completing the embankment and Almery Terrace flood defence improvements (Phase One to Three) this year, despite the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year we started work on Phase One of the Lower Bootham Improvement works. We will complete the final stages that were delayed by adverse weather in November 2019 and COVID-19 as part of our works this year. When the Phase One section in St. Peters school fields is being completed we will have a crossing in place on the footpath to ensure the safe separation of the public and construction vehicles. We are currently re-programming when this work will take place due to the delays, this is likely to be in July 2020.

Path Closures

In order to complete construction of the defences some path closures will be required. Temporary closures will take place on the riverside path directly adjacent to Almery Terrace. This will need to be closed during construction of the embankment immediately upstream of Almery Terrace and during the installation of the gates and glass panels at the Almery Terrace properties. Daily closures of this path will therefore be closed from approximately early August to late October, during working hours; 8:00 to 17:00. From late August when we are installing gates and glass panels the closure will not be required every day. We will only need to the closure on some days. We will update signage to keep people informed.

"Newly installed construction access track"
The Almery steps footpath will also be closed whilst we increase the height of the adjacent wall and for some of the time we are working on the adjacent Network Rail land.

This is estimated to be from early September to late October.

The footpath from the end of Westminster Road to the river will need to be closed whilst we carry out work to improve the flood embankment it crosses. This closure is currently estimated to be from the end of August. These periods are for guidance and may be subject to change. We will keep you updated in future newsletters.

**Construction Traffic**

As work restart and the materials arrive, increased construction traffic will return to Westminster Road and The Avenue. We have stressed to the drivers the importance of following our traffic management plan to limit disruption. They have been reminded of the requirement to follow our allocated speed limit through the area and this has been supplemented by addition of slow signs added to Westminster Road.

**What next?**

We will continue to keep you up to date with progress on the scheme and any changes. Further details regarding any necessary footpath closures, will be included in future newsletters.

The health and safety of everyone is our priority and we hope this provides you with the reassurance that where you see our people and partners, they will be working safely and progressing work that will better protect your community.

If you have questions about onsite issues you can contact our contractor directly through their Community Liaison Officer, Rebecca Stone:

**Tel:** 07900711136  
**Email:** rebecca.stone@bamnuttall.co.uk

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the project team by email at: yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk

You can also ask to sign up to our newsletter at this address. For updates via social media follow us on Twitter at @EnvAgencyNE and Facebook at @YorkFAS