

Tenbury Wells Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) - June 2022

Background

The Tenbury Wells Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) aims to reduce the risk of flooding from the River Teme and Kyre Brook. The proposed scheme is estimated to provide increased river flood protection to 120 residential properties and 145 commercial properties in Tenbury Wells.

Ongoing project activities

The project team continue to engage with multiple partners, stakeholders, authorities and the community of Tenbury. In particular, we are having valuable conversations with the Hereford Anglican Church over the coming weeks on finalising the scheme's design.

The project team are in the early stages of the Landscape Plan. They will look at how the scheme can be designed to protect and enhance the ecology, heritage, and character of the town. The Landscape Plan will be submitted alongside the planning application.

The scheme will be operated by the community. We have started to develop the flood plan in partnership with the community. This plan is an essential part of how Tenbury will be defended during a flood event.

A number of properties within Tenbury have been identified as potentially benefitting from Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. These properties are at risk of flooding but not directly protected by the scheme. They were identified based on an assessment of the flood model and feedback from residents at the November 2021 public engagement events. Letters have been posted to these properties and individual surveys will take place once their feedback is received.

Funding Gap

The Flood Risk Management Scheme in Tenbury Wells remains a complex design. It must consider the significant context of the area such as heritage, history, the environment and working within the church graveyard.

There have been more than expected engineering constraints, unforeseen changes in design, and industry wide increases in material costs. This has led to cost increases and programme delays of several months.

The project team were working with a funding gap already, and with project cost increases there is a £3.2 million funding gap. All partners, including the Environment Agency, Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council are working very hard to bridge this gap.

Next steps

We continue to explore opportunities to reduce capital costs through partnership working, design modification and value engineering to achieve a more efficient design.

We are looking at where the scheme can achieve greater benefits to improve the benefit cost ratio.

The project team will continue to consult stakeholders and landowners to work towards a final design for all locations. The final design will form part of the planning application.

We are preparing for the planning application to be submitted in late 2022.

The scheme is due to start construction in spring 2023 with the aim of full completion in spring 2025.

This timeframe will depend on a variety of factors, including securing funding shortfall, obtaining necessary approvals and any unforeseen engineering challenges on site.

Frequently asked question document (FAQ)

We have produced an FAQ document for this scheme, which is saved on our online information page - the link is in the 'Further information' section below. This FAQ document will be added to and updated as the scheme progresses, so please continue to refer to it in the first instance if you have any questions.

Further information

We will continue to provide regular updates about the scheme through our newsletters and online information page which can be accessed through <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/tenbury-wells-flood-risk-management-scheme>.

If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email your contact details to Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk or call our National Customer Contact Centre during office hours on 03708 506 506 and we will add you to our mailing list.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.