

Wroughton flood relief scheme update

February 2014



Introduction

In December, we reported that we were in the final stages of preparing the proposals for the flood relief scheme in the village. The scheme has now been approved and we are able to share more information about the next stages of the project.

Scheme approval

We recently presented the scheme proposals to the Environment Agency's project assurance board, which approved the project, subject to some minor changes to the report.

Approval means we can now progress the scheme by producing a detailed design, work with landowners, submit plans for approval and construct the scheme.

It also means funding from DEFRA can be released to add to the contributions from us, Wessex Water, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and a developer contribution supported by Wroughton Parish Council.

What happens next

The scheme will be delivered in two phases to reduce the frequency and impact of flooding in the village, and provide a design standard for a 1-in-50-year event.

Survey work

Initial surveys needed for the detailed design of the scheme and for necessary planning consents were started in December 2013, including environmental surveys and a topographic survey, which creates detailed mapping of the features of the land. In January, we undertook some ground investigations in Garston's Orchard to identify the exact locations of services such as gas, water, sewers, power and telecommunications in the road which will help us identify the exact positioning of the flood relief culvert.

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Phase 1

Phase 1 will involve upgrading the culvert in Garston's Orchard to double its size. The detailed design (which was started on 6 January) should be completed and contract for the work awarded by the end of March 2014. The works are expected to take up to 10 weeks and be completed by the end of the summer.

Phase 2

Phase 2 will involve the creation of a flood storage area upstream of the village, and will take longer to complete due to the need for more surveys of the ground conditions that will help finalise the detailed design, obtaining planning consent for the scheme and tendering the work. It is intended that planning consent will be obtained by July/August 2014.

Tendering for the work will be undertaken between July and September 2014, but we don't expect works for phase 2 to start until April 2015 because it is better not to undertake the type of works needed during winter months. However, we will look at the possibility of bringing forward any works where possible to allow for an earlier start date.

We will update you once the final dates have been confirmed.