

Project Update

March 2021



INTERACTIVE WEBMAP
Go to www.hawickfloodscheme.com to explore the Main Works Contract Work Section Interactive WebMap

Stone from the demolished Commercial Road Wall being lifted away in preparation for the new flood defence wall to be constructed.

Walls Emerge From Ground

2020 saw great progress across the town but most noticeably at the Common Haugh where walls are nearing completion.

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Plans for 2021

As we continue with our busiest construction year we look at where works will take place in 2021.

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More Money for Active Travel

In December, Sustrans confirmed their funding contribution of £12.6m. We explain what this means for Hawick.

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Protecting and Enhancing Hawick

A Huge Year for Hawick Flood Protection

McLaughlin & Harvey – Delivering a Major Programme of Construction Work Through 2021



Back in December 2009, when I first looked at the Council's instruction to advance a flood protection scheme for Hawick I could little have imagined the scale of the £88.1 million project that would be required to reduce flood risk to Teries from the towns' River Teviot corridor.

Today, over 11 years later it is my privilege to be leading the huge effort to deliver the flood protection that is so badly needed for the town. The high water levels of February 2021 once again served up a potent reminder of why so many in the town live on edge every winter.

2021 will be the single biggest year in the delivery of this Scheme. The programme of construction work is extensive, however years of planning and preparation have been invested in trying to minimise the impact of those works on the town and thereby its people, its businesses, its visitors, and indeed its traffic (both pedestrian and vehicular).

Across the town significant steps have already been made to put in place the flood risk reduction measures that will deliver protection against a 1 in 75 Year Flood Event. That event is larger than any flood

that has occurred in living memory – therefore if these defences had previously been in place then even the largest flood waters of 2005 would have safely flowed through the town.

And so, “here's to 2023” when those defences are completed, but just now “here's to a successful 2021”. Please bear with us as we build your Scheme, but simultaneous please help us succeed and let us know if something we're doing could be done better.

Conor Price
Project Director



Crane located on the Wee Haugh lifting Victoria Footbridge out of its location

New Footbridges for the Town

On 4th and 5th March, Victoria Footbridge was removed from its location over the river between Wee Haugh and Commercial Road. The old footbridge will be replaced in late summer with a new 2.5m wide footbridge which will sit higher so it meets the 1 in 75 year flood level requirement.

Victoria, Lawson and Mansfield Road Footbridges are all being replaced with wider structures that sit higher above the water as part of the proposed Active Travel Network through the town. Of the three footbridges being replaced, Victoria Footbridge is the only one going back in the same location due to constraints with the A7 trunk road. The other two will be moved slightly upstream – this allows the Scheme the ability of maintaining a pedestrian crossing at all times at these locations.

Once removed the footbridges will be moved into storage under the care of Scottish Borders Council Bridges team, and it is hoped that at a later date the footbridges will be refurbished and reused within the Borders.

For more information, log on to www.hawickfloodscheme.com

Main Flood Protection Works Moving Strongly Ahead

The main construction contract being delivered by McLaughlin & Harvey is now in its 10th month of a 40 month programme. Back in June 2020 the site required to be established in the town, and the first works undertaken within the River Teviot. Since then steady progress has been made, and the following progress is highlighted:

- Significant construction progress has been made, especially in the Common Haugh and Victoria Road/ Upper Common Haugh areas with the underground steel sheet-piles, steel reinforced concrete flood wall, related concrete works and stonemasonry mostly complete.



Wall construction alongside Buccleuch Road at the Volunteer and Buccleuch Park

- In the area of the James Thomson Footbridge, work has progressed well and sheet-piling from the footbridge to the start of Commercial Road, and stonemasonry works are now complete. The footbridge, which was temporarily closed to enable these works to proceed has reopened. The statue of James Thomson

is being stored safely and will be returned.

- Complex piling works downstream of Lovat Mill to the old laundry building on Commercial Road have been completed with flood walls now appearing.
- Sheet-piling and flood wall operations continue along Buccleuch Road starting beyond Volunteer Park towards the Tennis Club then heading for the back of the High School at Coble Cauld.
- A section of the new Active Travel Network from the Coble Cauld to McLaren Footbridge was completed, giving everybody a first glimpse of what the exciting, traffic-free/ shared-use path will look like. The Laurie Footbridge was reopened following the path completion.
- Works have commenced at Lower Mansfield Road and Mansfield Road itself, with piling operations well



Concrete being poured in between shutters next to James Thomson footbridge to create the flood defence wall

underway.

- Comprehensive pre-condition and environmental surveys were undertaken with householders and businesses in areas where works were due to commence.
- Two of the eight pumping stations are now starting to take shape.



The Common Haugh flood defence constructed and clad in buff Sandstone



Pumping Station shaft being installed on Mansfield Road



Flood Risk During Construction

The potential for the construction works to increase flood risk to the town is fully understood by the project team. The Scheme has therefore structured the approach to construction to ensure that Hawick will not be made any more vulnerable to flooding by the process of construction – i.e. when we remove the existing walls so the new flood walls can be constructed.

Throughout this winter, and particularly during February, the McLaughlin & Harvey construction team have been challenged to advance construction whilst simultaneously maintaining protection to the town's properties. On the night of the 23rd February the town of Hawick was once again brought to the brink of flooding. Throughout that event the Scheme's project team, at all levels, were mobilised and their response was integrated into the Borders Emergency Planning Team. Every effort was made to minimise the risk of flooding in Hawick. All of this was done in partnership with Hawick Flood Group.



Looking Ahead to the Next Few Months

As we further ramp up construction activities through 2021, we thank the people of Hawick for their support and understanding to date and ask for continued patience whilst we undertake these critical flood protection works in both commercial and residential areas of the town. Here's what will be happening over the next few months:

- There will be a focussed effort to complete all concrete works in the area between Volunteer Park and Lawson Footbridge and to the river-side section of Commercial Road from James Thomson Footbridge to the end of the old laundry building.
- At the Common Haugh, flood gates and first of the many large glass viewing panels to be installed along the entire length of the Scheme will be inserted into the newly built flood walls. Finishing works will commence with the installation of new lighting and landscaped area on the river side section of the wall. A section of 4m wide path for the Active Travel Network will also be constructed from Albert Bridge along to the new Lawson Footbridge and onwards up to Victoria Road through the newly created Common Haugh park.
- The main section of works on Commercial Road will continue with sheet-piling and wall construction. The one-way traffic management system remains in place to allow these works to progress until the early summer when a full road closure will once again be required to construct the new flood wall between the Sainsbury's entrance and Aldi.
- Sheet-piling work will continue along Mansfield Road heading towards Teviotdale Leisure Centre. The reinforced concrete walls will follow soon after progressing in the opposite direction from the Leisure Centre back down the road.
- A new permanent outfall pipe will be created for the Sewage Treatment Works at Lower Mansfield Road.
- A new 2.5m wide footbridge to replace Victoria Footbridge will be lifted into place to connect Commercial Road and the Wee Haugh.
- Construction will begin on the Scheme's pumping stations at Sandbed, Teviot Road and Glebe Mill Street.

£12.6m Funding Package Confirmed

Active Travel Network to be Expanded into Communities

In December 2020, Scottish Borders Council was formally granted £12.642m by the Scottish Government through the Sustrans “Places For Everyone” Scheme to create an Active Travel Network (ATN) for the town of Hawick. This was an increase of c. £3.7m when compared to the money identified in the final Scheme authorised for delivery at £88.1m in early 2020.

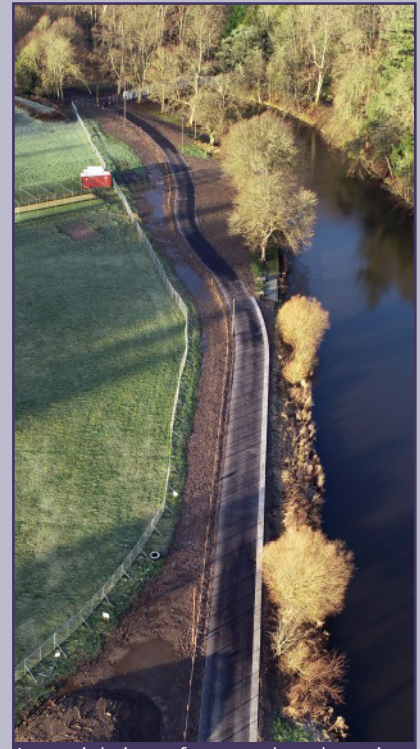
The new money is to be invested into the Active Travel Network’s design to provide neighbourhood links, and furthermore the landscape of the communities adjacent to the already designed core pathway. This funding confirmation was provided to the Council after a presentation the project team made to the Sustrans ‘Places for Everyone’ Infrastructure Panel in September 2020. In response to that presentation,

the tremendous success of the Scheme to date in working with the people of Hawick to design an Active Travel Network that layered onto the footprint of the flood protection scheme was acknowledged and it was highlighted that this degree of connectivity is almost unprecedented within a historic rural market town urban environment.

The Scheme’s project team are now considering the many ways through which the currently designed core network may be enhanced or expanded. It is assumed that a design and consultation process will commence from summer 2021 on these new sections, and that the delivery of these Work Sections will be filtered into the existing construction programme through 2022 and 2023.



A cyclist and scooter enthusiast enjoying travelling actively on a shared use path.



An aerial view of a completed section of the 4m wide Active Travel Network connecting the Lawson footbridge with Wilton Lodge Park past Coble Cauld.

What is an Active Travel Network?

An Active Travel Network is a series of inter-connecting paths, safe crossings and quiet residential streets to enable as many people as possible to safely travel by walking, cycling or wheeling.

The benefits of building this type of infrastructure are huge and for everyone. For example, it creates options for people to travel more sustainably and cheaply, and it provides greater opportunities for all of us to be outdoors, particularly children and young people. Overall, it creates a more attractive environment to spend time away from the noise and pollution of car traffic, bringing wider economic, health and environmental benefits.

Keeping You Informed

An interactive webmap is now live on www.hawickfloodscheme.com showing each work section along the length of the Scheme. The map is continually being updated with new boards to let residents know when to expect works and what the plans are for their area. Work sections boards are also popping up around the town next to where works are taking place.

The work section boards show:

- Works start and completion dates
- Alignment of the flood wall & position of glass panels or flood gates where applicable
- How the wall in that area will be finished
- The Active Travel Network
- Graphics and information on key landscape areas

Hawick Flood Protection

Main Works Contract Work Section - Information Board

WS-01 Victoria Road / Upper Common Haugh

Overview
In July 2020, McLaughlin & Harvey commenced construction of the £88million Hawick Flood Protection Scheme. The Scheme will be delivered by late 2023 and work will be advanced through 42 work sections and at eight pumping station locations. This Information Board is provided to present you with an insight to the works at this location. Please contact the Project Team or visit our website for more information.

Reinforced Concrete Flood Wall
At this location, the reinforced concrete flood wall has stone finish on both sides with a stone coping.

Steel Sheet Piles:
Are driven up to 10m into the ground below the new wall to provide both part of the structural foundation and a seepage cut-off for water below the ground.

Natural Stone:
The new reinforced concrete flood walls are dressed in natural sandstone to meet a planning condition and to allow the new wall to blend into the town's historic background.

Reinforced Concrete:
The new flood walls themselves are made of a designed reinforced concrete. These walls are both slender and strong so they can minimise impact on the existing town landscape yet resist and manage the enormous forces of the water during a major flood event.

Viewing Platform:
This will be placed at the far end of the park to provide the community with views of the River Teviot over the Cobble Cauld.

Sensory Garden:
The newly enhanced park will also include a sensory garden for park goers to enjoy.

Relocation of Campervan Area:
The relocation of the campervan area will maintain views of the river whilst providing a more peaceful setting for overnight campers.

Active Travel Network:
New networks 'place-making' objectives will provide this new space between the Common Haugh and the River Teviot.

Programme Work Start: July 2020
Work Finish: Spring 2021

For more information, contact:
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www.hawickfloodscheme.com
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Registered site www.ccscheme.org.uk

Contacting the team

There are a number of ways you can keep up-to-date with the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme or contact the team to ask questions or provide comments:

www.hawickfloodscheme.com
hawickfloodps@scotborders.gov.uk

[@HawickFPS](https://twitter.com/HawickFPS)
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