

Project Update

June 2022



NEW SCHEME COMPLETION TIMELINE INSIDE!



Photograph by Brian Sutherland – www.briansutherlandmedia.com

Fish Rescue

Learn how the river environment is being protected.

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Not just construction

Find out all the different ways we have been supporting the community.

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Connecting the town

See how the Active Travel Network is developing.

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Protecting and Enhancing Hawick

Summer Progress

Returning the town to you

After 26 months of building the Scheme I would like to highlight that the Project Team are acutely aware of a rising sense of construction fatigue in the town, however I would also like to highlight that we remain on programme to be completed in late 2023 which is the same end date we set back in early 2020.

We are now in the third summer of construction, and once again there is a huge schedule of work to complete during the critical river-access months of May to September. We now have the experience of two previous summers, and I hope that you will have noticed the rapidity of our deployment into the river and the substantial progress

already achieved this summer. New flood walls and bridge piers are rising out of the river channels already.

By last Christmas I was proud to report that we were 50% through the construction programme and that around 50% of the walls were constructed. Those new defences protected the town in October 2021, when once again the River Teviot threatened to flood large areas of the town. By this winter we hope to have 75% of new defences constructed, and we will continue to stand alongside the Volunteer Flood Group to defend the town until the Scheme is complete.

Finally, I would also like to highlight whilst the first two



years focused on delivering flood protection as quickly as possible, that from here our focus will be on completion of works area by area and in returning your town to you. One by one the working areas will come together to achieve re-imagined environmental landscapes that will weave its way through the heart of Hawick. In recognition of this we have designed a new Scheme Completion Timeline which is provided in this newsletter for your benefit.

Conor Price
Project Director

Environment Matters

A top priority for all major construction projects is care for the environment. Hawick Flood Protection Scheme is fully committed to carrying out the works in accordance with strict regulations set by various environmental protection bodies such as Nature Scot (formally Scottish National Heritage), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the River Tweed Commission, and the Tweed Foundation.



Fish Rescue underway downstream of the Slitrig and Teviot confluence

However, there is no getting away from the fact that the works will have implications for local wildlife, vegetation and water quality, as determined by the Scheme's environmental assessment. Our job, working with the environmental bodies mentioned above, is to reduce any impacts to the absolute minimum.

Since 2020, The Tweed Foundation have been working hard, with the Project Team, to minimise any potential damage to local fish stocks. Typically this involves electro-fishing out any fish that could be potentially harmed when works are undertaken. Thousands of juvenile Salmon, Trout, Eels, Lamprey, Minnow, Stoneloach and Stickleback have been rescued and relocated to alternative habitats on the River Teviot.

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

Scheme Completion Timeline



July 2022

Scottish Water Pumping Station
 A new high-capacity pumping station within the Scottish Water treatment works is fully operational, minimising flood risk to Mansfield Road and Hawick's sewer network.

Summer 2022

Victoria Footbridge
 Upgraded, 2.5m wide Victoria Footbridge opens. At the same location as its original structure, the raised, wider footbridge will allow accessible shared-use for pedestrians and cyclists; and improve the ability of flood water to flow under it.

November 2022

Lawson Footbridge
 Upgraded, 4m wide Lawson Footbridge opens. Moved upstream of its original structure, the raised, wider footbridge will allow accessible shared-use for pedestrians and cyclists; and improve the ability of flood water to flow under it.

November 2022

Mansfield Footbridge
 Upgraded, 4m wide Mansfield Footbridge opens. Moved upstream of its original structure, the raised, wider footbridge will allow accessible shared-use for pedestrians and cyclists; and improve the ability of flood water to flow under it.



Commercial Road
 Opening of new, upgraded A7 Commercial Road, in partnership with Transport Scotland, making it more suitable for the traffic levels and improving access to businesses situated along its length. This includes: the provision of a new flood wall along its whole length to deliver flood protection and simultaneously a new retaining wall to hold up the trunk road; a new pumping station and improved drainage.

December 2022

Common Haugh - Car Park
 Having served as a site compound to facilitate works in this location, and been reshaped around the new flood walls, the town's main car park and event function space will be reopened. It will have a new layout and additional camper van spaces.

December 2022



Wee Haugh - Park
 Opening of the Wee Haugh Park. This common good land at the heart of the town has been re-imagined as a multifunctional space with: a new toddler play park; a park area; and an outdoor event space. The town's new Active Travel Network will go through the park and, within the park access will be provided to the new Victoria Footbridge.

Summer 2023

Common Haugh - Park
 Opening of new, re-imagined space at Common Haugh. The flood walls are complemented by glass panels and "The Wittergate". The area now includes a newly landscaped community space and a viewing platform on the wet side of the wall.

Summer 2023

Full Flood Protection August 2023

Main Works Completion

Late 2023

24 months

Main Works Maintenance

Community Benefits

Alongside the construction works, the Project Team has been working with various groups, organisations, businesses, schools, civic leaders and members of the community in a bid to deliver community benefits and create social value.

Industry standard for construction contractors is to: (a) offer financial assistance (donations / sponsorship); (b) provide labour, plant and materials for community projects; (c) offer employment and training opportunities; and (d) assist with community activities.

In addition to the industry standard, the Project Team has been recognised by the Considerate Constructors



Picture of 53 girls from Hawick High School who participated in May's What-IF programme

Scheme for raising the bar in terms of delivering Community Benefits and making a positive impact. As well as volunteering at local events, the Project Team has delivered the CECA Scotland endorsed 'What-IF' programme for Hawick High School pupils; created all-accessible entrances; helped reduce road safety concerns at Atkinson Road; organised the in-park activities for the

Festival of Cycling; provided specialist business support and advice to SMEs; helped organise the inaugural Festival of Wellbeing; created video footage for the Hawick Reivers; participated in the Great Border River Clean; and most recently acted as Traffic Marshalls for the Hawick Common Riding 2022.

	53 Local people employed for more than 12 weeks		220 Training Days delivered with £24.1k invested		£1.3m spent locally and in the Scottish Borders
	8 Build Your Future & Employability Taster Sessions		197 engagements/interactions with community groups		£81.3k community investment
	2 Apprentices, 3 Graduates and 1 Summer Placement		Delivered 2 CECA Scotland endorsed What-IF programmes for 10 high school pupils		Engaged with 3272 school & nursery pupils via 40 interactions and activities

Flood Wall Construction Process



Stage One: Site Clearance and excavation of the works area followed by installation of steel sheet piles and pouring of the subterranean concrete base which forms the wall foundation. Any service pipes to go through the flood wall are laid during this stage.





Hawick Flood Protection

Active Travel Network

Layered onto the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme, the Project Team are also delivering a new Active Travel Network (ATN), working in partnership with Sustrans, who funded the project through the Transport Scotland 'Places for Everyone' Scheme. The Active Travel Network will be approximately 6.3 km in length and will involve approximately 2.4 km of road reallocation.

The Project Team held two events earlier this year:

- Burnfoot Community
- Consultation in February;
- and the Community
- Vision Working
- Group No. 10
- in March.
- During these
- consultation
- events with
- the town on
- the proposed
- additional
- parts of this
- network and
- received lots of
- great ideas and
- comments.

- Soon some of
- these additional
- pathway sections will be
- advanced to construction.
- These include the existing
- Waverley Walk footpath,
- between Teviotdale Leisure
- Centre and Hamilton Road,
- being widened to 4 metres.
- Following this, there is a
- new path being created
- from McLaren Footbridge
- at the Volunteer Park up to
- Buccleuch Road connecting
- to Crumhaugh path with

What will the Active Travel Network achieve?

Improve public spaces across the town; create a new pathway network to provide an Active Travel Network as an alternative; reduce car and vehicle use across the town; and improve health outcomes by people walking, cycling and wheeling more often.

- a toucan crossing over the A7.
- The Project Team have
- also developed a new 3D
- Animation Fly-through of the
- Scheme which can be viewed
- on the Scheme's website at
- www.hawickfloodscheme.com



Project Team answer questions from the community at CVWG No. 10.

Stage Two: Steel reinforcement bars (rebar) inserted to add strength, formation of the inner reinforced concrete wall which involves temporary shutters being placed as moulds to pour the concrete into. Walls are constructed in plain or patterned concrete.



Stage Three: Plain concrete finished walls are clad with either buff or grey sandstone and coping is added. Where relevant, glass viewing panels or flood gates are inserted. The works area is then reinstated, landscaped and in many locations sections of the new Active Travel Network are built.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Project Team are often asked questions by members of the public, businesses and stakeholders which we are always happy to answer. When similar questions are repeatedly asked or we think the wider community may also like to know the answer, they are included in our dedicated Frequently Asked Questions section on our website. We've included a few here but make sure to visit our website for more.

Why are the new footbridges so high above the river?

The new footbridges have been raised to ensure flood events, protected by the Scheme, pass safely under them. They then do not become blocked and cause backing up of the river that we have seen in the past when large trees get washed downstream...

What will happen to debris that gets caught in the rock armour?

Access is provided along this stretch of the river bank by a new flood gate on Commercial Road, so this will allow access to clear debris from this area should it be required...

Will the remaining vegetation and trees be removed from the river bank?

No. Vegetation and trees were removed along the line of the flood defences to ensure the safe construction of the Scheme...

NEW FAQs ONLINE




VISIT
www.hawickfloodscheme.com
TO FIND OUT MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT THESE
FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

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:



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