

Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme: July 2023

Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter for the Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme. This newsletter is an important way of keeping you informed as the scheme progresses.

Currently we are working on the detailed design for the scheme. The timeline opposite is subject to a number of factors. We need to obtain planning permission in order to proceed with the scheme and we value the support of local communities and other stakeholders to achieve this. We also have to go through the government approvals process and consider any construction risks.

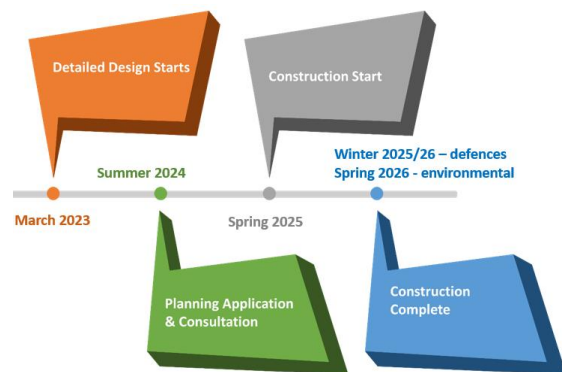
Moving to the Full Business Case Phase

We have now moved from the appraisal phase into the detailed design phase. This is part of the government approvals process and is also known as the Full Business Case phase (FBC).

We considered the scheme objectives and their viability during appraisal. This includes the benefits the scheme will bring to the community, how much it will cost and how it can be funded.

Woking Borough Council fully support the scheme and were originally making a large contribution. However, in light of their serious financial situation this is no longer the case. The Environment Agency and partners are looking for alternative funding sources and are confident in our ability to secure the required funding.

During the FBC phase we will continue to develop the design based on more detailed information. We check the viability of the scheme again with updated costs, and benefits. A planning application is submitted in this phase, and we incorporate feedback from the community and partners to ensure we have a proposed scheme that everyone supports. Once the FBC phase is successfully complete the project can move into the construction phase.



Likely timeline of target dates

Survey information

We are gathering survey information on local wildlife to inform the scheme.

We completed the second of six breeding bird surveys in April 2023. The highlights of this survey included three singing male Common Whitethroats, a Willow Warbler, a House Martin, a Swallow, and nine Mandarin Ducks along the River Wey. We carried out the third breeding bird survey in May, and findings are being processed. We plan to continue surveys through the summer until winter 2023.

The riverbank mammal survey and the badger survey showed no signs of water voles. However, suitable habitat may be present in existing areas along the river or could be created as part of the scheme. Otter spraint (droppings) and possible footprints were found along the northern edge of the River Wey. Foxes and roe deer were also identified.

We will conduct a second water vole survey later in summer 2023 along with further surveys for invertebrates, bats, kingfishers and barn owls.

Fish Pass at Broadoak

During the appraisal phase we investigated options for installing a fish pass at Broadoak Weir. However, to avoid delays to the Sanway-Byfleet FAS we are currently considering the fish pass as a separate project.



Visualisation of Common Meadows

Community engagement

We held a community workshop for directly impacted residents in early July 2023. We discussed details of the construction programme and the look of the embankment once constructed. We also gathered feedback, which we'll take into consideration when developing detailed plans for construction on site.

We are also engaging with community groups who may be keen to get involved with the scheme in some way.

In early autumn 2023 we will be holding another public engagement event to share further design and construction information with the wider community.

Please look out for our information advertising these events and come along to speak to us. There will be an opportunity to learn more about the scheme and share your views.

Prepare for flooding

Although we aim to reduce flood risk, we can never remove it entirely. We work to help individuals and communities prepare themselves for flooding, by providing information to those who need it. You can find out more about what to do before, during and after a flood by visiting

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding

If you see blockages in the river channel which pose an immediate flood risk then this should be reported directly to our incident line on:

0800 80 70 60

How to get in touch

You can call us on 03708 506 506

Or email us at:

THM.schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you represent a community group and would like to get involved with the scheme's community outreach, register your interest by scanning this QR code.

