

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme

Main Works Newsletter

Issue 6

March 2016

A new year brings with it an opportunity to take a fresh look into the future. For the Scheme, 2016 brings the final year of the main construction works and thereby the completion of the town's new flood defences. This is a milestone that has been long desired by the people of the Selkirk and which should bring a sense of relief that the power of the Ettrick, Yarrow, Long Philip Burn, Shaw Burn and Philiphaugh Mill Lade to deliver flooding misery has finally been brought under control. We hope this allows you a better ability to plan for the future.

From a project team perspective, we are aware that we cannot in any way rest on our laurels. The part-constructed defences must be completed and there are many construction challenges that lie ahead. We will do our best to continue to work with you and minimise the impact of those works.

Conor Price, Senior Project Manager

Selkirk's partially built flood defences tested by winter storms

As has been widely covered in both the local and national media, the Scheme has been put to the test on a number of occasions since late November. The success of the flood defences is a matter of huge pride for the project team, many of whom have spent years developing, and more latterly delivering, the preferred flood protection options. From the Intelligent Water Management System at St Mary's Loch to the reinforced concrete flood walls and earthen embankments through the town; to the re-meandered Long Philip Burn to the raising of the Bridge Street Footbridge; each of these elements performed as intended. In particular, Storm Frank on 30th December resulted in the highest waters experienced in the Ettrick since the major flood in October 1977. Without the part-constructed defences significant flooding would have been experienced in parts of the town.



Far Left:
Re-meandered section of the Long Philip Burn in early November

Left:
Same section of the Long Philip Burn during Storm Frank in late December



Far Left:
Ettrick Water downstream of Bridge Street footbridge during the summer of 2014

Left:
Ettrick Water at close to its peak level during Storm Frank, pictured from the new footbridge

Activity over the next few months

St Mary's Loch:

The new SML Intelligent Water Management System is now operating as designed. The project team will continue to monitor and assess the system closely. Snagging and landscaping works will be ongoing.

Philiphaugh (including Ettrickhaugh Road):

Works on the A708, having commenced in early January, will continue through the period. The road will have two-way lights and RJ McLeod will construct the new flood wall alongside the road. At Ettrickhaugh Road the wall will be completed and finishing / landscaping works will commence.

Long Philip Burn:

Major works will continue along the length of the burn from Ravensheugh to the Ettrick. The works on the bridges / roads are now substantially complete so the impact on the road network should be effectively finished. The wall construction at Corbie Linn Road will continue, and works on all elements of the new defences will be ongoing through the section from Philiphaugh Cottages past the allotments to the Ettrick.

Riverside:

Through Riverside the focus will be on completing the defences and finishing the roads on the dry side. At the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) significant works will commence to construct the new access road and reconfigure the CRC (see Page 4). On the outside of the defences the pathway construction and landscaping will continue especially along the Common Riding route to ensure it is ready for the horses in June.

Bannerfield:

Works will continue along the length of the Scheme to advance the new walls and embankments. The footbridge will remain open to pedestrians, while works on the new landings will commence.

Shaw Burn:

Works in this area are now getting underway. Scottish Water will complete their sewer diversion works under the A7 and at the Oregon car park. RJ McLeod will start their works on the Shaw Burn at this location and move down the burn alongside Oregon and then into the Oregon yard. Access to this work will primarily be from the Oregon car park, but there may be some impact to Raeburn Place.

Scottish Government launch Flood Risk Management Strategies

In early January the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dr Aileen McLeod MSP visited the Scheme to launch the Scottish Government's new Flood Risk Management Strategies.

These new strategies are a milestone production of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and have been years in the making. They provide a clear roadmap to how Scotland will manage its flood risk over the coming years. The project team were pleased to have been asked to host this event.



Far Left: Dr Aileen McLeod MSP and Terry A'Hearn CEO of SEPA. Pictured on the banks of the Ettrick in front of the new Bridge Street footbridge.

Left: Cllr David Parker, Calum Kerr MP, Dr Aileen McLeod MSP and Terry A'Hearn on Bridge Street footbridge.

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme in numbers...

595 buildings provided with formal flood protection

 Residential Properties	750
 Businesses	120
 No. of Employees	≈ 1200 - 1500



£31.4M
Total Scheme Cost
£58.9M
Total Scheme Benefits



1.92
Benefit-Cost Ratio(BCR) excluding SML

3,400 Metres of Flood Wall



8 years in Planning, Design & Construction



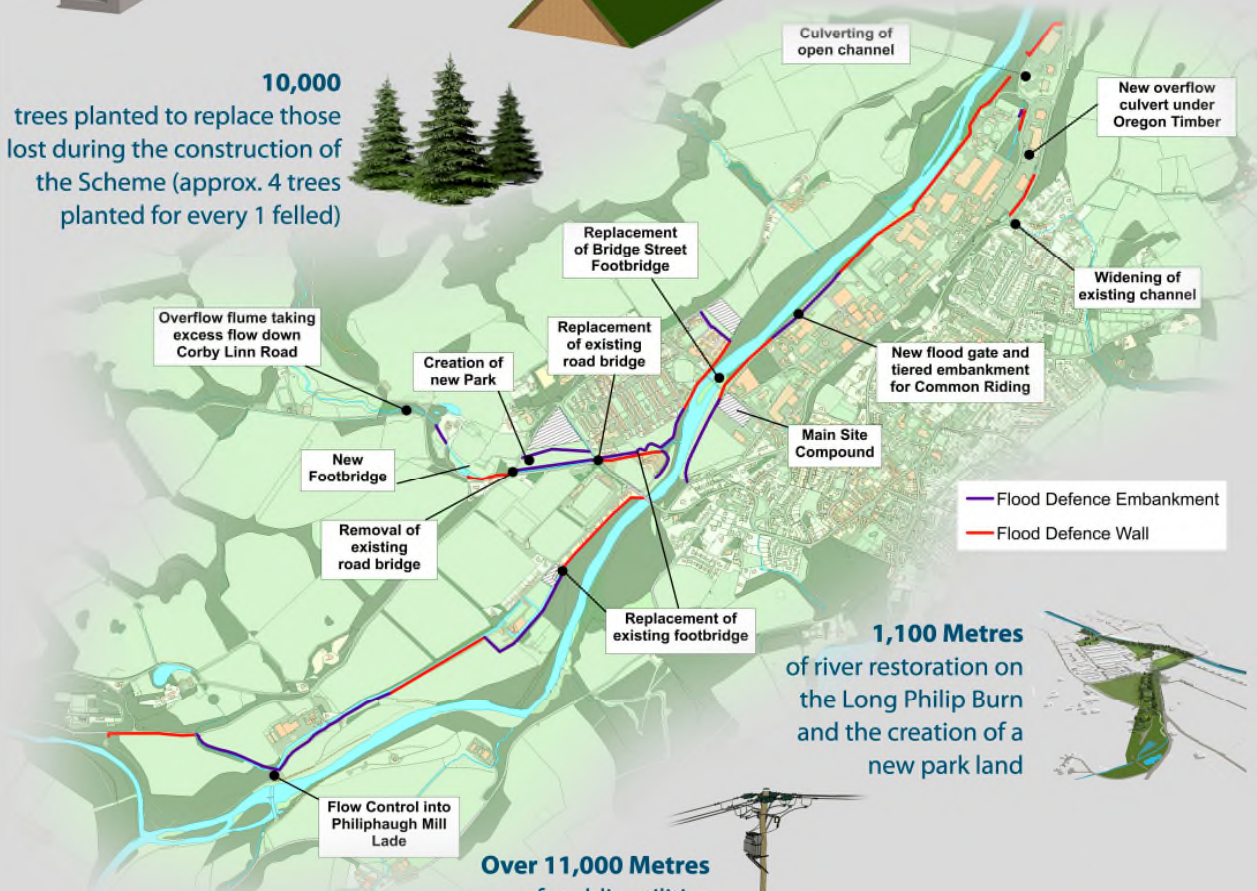
3,100 Metres of Flood Embankment



6000 Metres of new or upgraded access paths



10,000 trees planted to replace those lost during the construction of the Scheme (approx. 4 trees planted for every 1 felled)



1,100 Metres of river restoration on the Long Philip Burn and the creation of a new park land



Over 11,000 Metres of public utilities diverted



5 new footbridges including the replacement of 84 metre Bridge Street footbridge

310 Metres of river bank erosion protection



St. Mary's Loch Intelligent Water Management System (SMLIWMS)

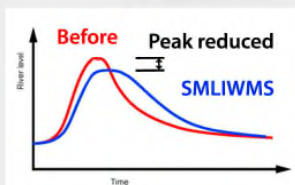
1,540,000m³ of extra storage capacity lowering the normal loch level by approx. 0.4 metres & raising the spillway



This extra storage capacity along with the new management system allow the loch level to be managed in advance of, during, and after storm events to reduce downstream flood risk



14.8
SML Standalone BCR



Temporary closure of Selkirk Community Recycling Centre

The Community Recycling Centre (CRC) closed in early February and will remain closed until at least the middle of May.

This is to allow the temporary CRC access road to be extended through the CRC site so that this can be used as the main diversion route during an extended closure of Dunsdale Haugh in the summer months.

While the CRC is closed the site will be reconfigured and work will be undertaken to improve the layout of the site. This will include extending the site the east.

All the existing services will remain once it reopens.

During the closure members of the public are encouraged to use the nearest alternative CRCs in Galashiels and Hawick. It is worth noting that Hawick CRC is undergoing improvement work and will be subject to closures during the next few months. Information about any closures of this facility will be posted on SBC's website and social media feeds as well as in local press.



Above: Visualisation of reconfigured CRC & the new Level Crossing Road extension

Storm updates on website

Since early December the Borders have been hit by a series of major storm events. Over this period the project team have been closely monitoring the weather and river levels. They have also been mobilising site resources through these periods to deal with site level issues that develop. The Scheme's website has been providing running updates through these events.

Traffic Lights on A708

Work Section 1A commenced in January. This section will see a new flood wall constructed alongside the A708 from the end of the embankment at Old Mill Farm, past the entrance to Philiphaugh Estate at Ivy Lodge to the west end of the field. A two-way set of traffic lights is in place and will remain there until the end of the works in early May.

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact one of the following:

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Main Site Compound

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme
 South Bridge Street
 Selkirk, TD7 5DR
 Phone: 01750 725 448

Public Information Areas

We have Information Areas in the following locations:

Selkirk Library

Philiphaugh Community Centre

Main Site Compound