

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme

Main Works Newsletter

Issue 8

August 2016

It's hard to believe that 18 months have passed since I wrote the introduction to our first newsletter in February 2015. A huge amount has been achieved since then and as I write this, in early July, the flood defences have, for the most part, been constructed and much of Selkirk is now protected from major flood events. While heavy engineering works continue on Dunsdale Haugh and at Oregon Timber, the walls, embankments and river restoration works are complete through Philiphaugh, Bannerfield, Riverside and along the Long Philip Burn.

Work on developing a flood protection scheme for Selkirk began in 2009 and now, seven years on, we are nearing the end of the main construction works and are on the cusp of the delivering a fully operational Scheme. Having said that, there is still a lot of work to do over the next six months or so: please be assured that my team and I are committed to ensuring that the remaining engineering works, together with the final landscaping works, are completed on time and on budget, with minimal disruption and in a manner which ensures the defences sit comfortably within both the natural and built environments.

Conor Price, Senior Project Manager

Bannerfield Community Initiative

Thank you to all those who returned the questionnaire which was sent to Bannerfield residents in early June.

The next SFPS Bannerfield information evening will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10 August in the Philiphaugh Community Centre. This meeting will be used to discuss this initiative further and agree on the next steps. The senior project management team will also provide a full Scheme update.

The image shows a questionnaire form with various sections for providing feedback on the flood protection scheme. It includes a header with the scheme name and a section for 'Bannerfield Community Initiative - Questionnaire'. The form contains several paragraphs of text and checkboxes for responses.

Common Riding 2016

After a slight diversion in 2015, the Common Riding cavalcade returned to its traditional route along Riverside Road this year and was able to successfully ford the Ettrick on what was a rather wet Common Riding morning.

In advance of this year's events, the Project Team met with the Common Riding Trust on several occasions and minor landscaping works were undertaken between the flood gate and the crossing point to ensure that the cavalcade could pass through this area without issue.

The Project Team has always recognised the huge importance of the Common Riding and from the very early stages of planning and designing the Scheme has been committed to minimising any impacts on the annual festivities. As construction work nears its conclusion, we will continue to liaise with the Common Riding Trust to ensure that the defences are completed without any significant impact on future Common Ridings.

Primary & Secondary School Events

The Project Team is making plans to speak to every school pupil in Selkirk during the next school year. A series of presentations and site visits will be used to explain why the flood protection scheme is required, how the defences work, the level of protection provided and how the subjects and skills being learnt at school relate to the civil engineering profession.

DOORS OPEN DAYS As part of Doors Open Day, the Project Team will be *Get into buildings!* offering tours of the Flood Protection Scheme on Saturday 17 September. Details are available from the DOD programme and places can be booked by phoning 01750 725 448 or by emailing selkirkfps@scotborders.gov.uk.



For all the latest information please visit the Scheme's website at www.selkirkfloodscheme.com

Activity over the next few months

Shaw Burn:

The main construction works are now concentrated at Dunsdale Haugh and around/within Oregon Timber. Works will remain ongoing to construct the new flood walls and continue to place the new Shaw Burn culvert through Oregon's yard. Dunsdale Haugh will remain closed with traffic diverted onto Level Crossing Road. The works through Oregon Timber have been programmed into five phases to minimise impact on the business. Phase two of these works is currently nearing completion.

Riverside & Philiphaugh (including Ettrickhaugh Road):

All the new flood defences are now constructed. Final landscaping works and the establishment of the wild-flower meadows will remain ongoing. Work on the new bridge plaza area will continue. Reinstatement of private land which was occupied to facilitate the construction of the flood defences is also ongoing.

Bannerfield:

Finishing of the new concrete walls and construction of the new bridge plaza area will continue. The new handrail lighting on Bridge Street footbridge should be installed in September.

Long Philip Burn:

All the new flood defences are now constructed. Final landscaping works, the reinstatement of private land which was occupied during the works, and the establishment of the wild-flower meadows will remain ongoing. In particular, works will be ongoing at the following locations: the entrance to Corby Linn Road (at its junction with the A708); the top of the new Long Philip Burn park corridor just before Ravensheugh; adjacent to the Philiphaugh Steading site; outside Philiphaugh Farm Cottages; the Allotments and alongside Burnmill. Reinstatement of the Angles Field material processing area will continue.

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme Long Philip Burn River Restoration

New overflow spillway which during very high flow events will divert excess flow onto Corby Linn Road, protecting Ravensheugh House from flooding

Re-meandered burn and new Angles Field park during landscaping works

Flood wall, flood embankment and re-meandered burn next to Bannerfield playpark

Burn restoration and new reinforced concrete bridge

Old bridge demolished at the eastern end of Corby Linn Road

Angles Field flood embankments, re-meandered burn and new A707/A708 junction during construction

New reinforced concrete bridge and improved A707/A708 junction

3 new Ekki timber footbridges raised above the 1 in 200 years flood level. Can remain open during high flow events

New ramp and channel to redirect excess flow back into the burn

— Flood Defence Embankment
— Flood Defence Wall
- - - Ground Re-engineering
— New or upgraded footpath

Scottish Borders Council
CPE
RJ MLEOD CH2M HILL

A full range of progress photos can be viewed on our website or in our Public Information Room

Significant progress over the last few months



Above (Clockwise from top left): Culvert units are installed under Dunsdale Haugh in front of Oregon Timber; Flood protection wall is constructed along Dunsdale Haugh; Additional erosion protection work immediately downstream of Bridge Street footbridge; Plaza area takes shape on the north side of Bridge Street footbridge.

The Project Team is always happy to speak to community groups or other organisations about the Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme. If you would like a member of the team to give a talk about the Scheme or are interested in a site visit please email selkirkfps@scotborders.gov.uk or phone the site compound on 01750 725 448.

Additional Community Benefits delivered by the Scheme

At its peak, the Scheme employed around 150 people with, on average, around half of these being residents of the Scottish Borders. Local businesses provided stonemasons, plant operators, joiners, labourers and office personnel. RJ McLeod estimate that approximately £6 million worth of business has been generated for local suppliers and businesses.

Partnership working with Job Centre+ and Borders College provided funding to deliver training for local unemployed people to secure CSCS accreditation, Health & Safety and First Aid qualifications. This enabled these individuals to undertake work placements and in some cases secure employment on the Scheme. A number of university graduates have also gained practical experience by completing six month placements on the Scheme. Work experience placements have also been provided for Selkirk High School pupils and students at Borders College: one local young person has now secured an apprenticeship as a joiner as a result of an earlier placement on the Scheme. In addition to this, some of the sub-contractors have been able to provide apprenticeships as a result of the work secured from the Scheme.

Throughout the main construction works RJ McLeod have been committed to supporting local organisations, charities and sports groups either through sponsorship or by providing material, equipment or labour to help with particular initiatives. Many of these initiatives were highlighted in Issue 5 of our newsletter in December 2015 - this issue is still available online or at our Public Information Room. In recent months RJ McLeod have worked with the local Community Police Officer and Selkirk Angling Club to take 60 primary 7 pupils on an environmental and team building trip and have led a 'Build a Bridge' workshop as part of the Borders Science Festival. They were also pleased to host 10 residents of Riverside Healthcare Centre on Common Riding morning ensuring that this group of senior Souters could see the cavalcade as it approached the river.

Questions or comments about the Scheme? Please get in touch - contact details are on Page 4

New Recycling Centre opens

The Community Recycling Centre, which was closed in February 2016 to allow the construction of the flood defences to proceed, has now reopened. A brand new split level recycling centre - which is approximately twice the size of the old facility - has been constructed. The centre is open 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday and has all the services which the old facility had prior to its closure.



Pictured in early July 2016

Corby Linn Road milestone

At the end of June the temporary bridge at Corby Linn Road was removed. This bridge, which was installed during the advance works in 2014, has been providing an alternative access route for local residents during the main construction works.

With the substantial completion of the works in this area, the temporary access road was no longer required. The temporary road has been narrowed down to provide a new footpath. A new footbridge and board walk will be constructed to link into the existing road and path network.



Defences complete on Etrick, Philiphaugh Mill Lade & Long Philip Burn

In early May, the final section of flood defence was constructed on the banks of the Etrick. The completion of this section of reinforced concrete wall, downstream of Bridge Street footbridge, means that Bannerfield is now protected from a 1 in 200 years (plus climate change) flood event from the Etrick. The earlier completion of the defences through Philiphaugh, Victoria Park and Riverside means that these areas are all also protected from at least the 1 in 200 years (plus climate change) flood events.



'Bannerfield Garden Challenge' - Friday 2 September: please contact the Project Team if you would like more details

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

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Main Site Compound

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Public Information Room

Our Public Information Room at the Main Site Compound is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and on Fridays from 9am to 4pm. This room is kept up to date with key project information and photos and members of the Project Team are available to answer any questions you may have.