



Reducing flood risk in East Lytham

Project Update

July 2016

What is the scheme about?

In February this year we gained approval to undertake improvement works to the Liggard Brook scheme which was originally completed in the late 1990's. This scheme was designed to reduce the risk of flooding to Lytham by diverting excess flood flows to the Main Drain which would then be pumped out to the Ribble Estuary by a new pumping station at Dock Bridge on Preston Road.

This scheme looks to make further improvements to the system which will include the extension of Dock Bridge outfall, replacement pumps at the pumping station, repairs to the Liggard Brook overflow weir and dredging to the tidal and inland river channels. We will also investigate the use of specialist dredging equipment to support our future maintenance of the river channels in this area once works are completed.

Design and construction of the works

During July 2016 we will be tendering the design and construction of the works to our framework suppliers. This process will take around 3 to 4 months to complete with a contractor in place by the end of the summer. We had hoped to start this process sooner however due to timeframes on confirming available funding, this has slipped by 2 months. We do not believe this delay will have an impact on the planned construction timetable however.

Our current time table dependant on available funding is:

- July to October - tender award work to contractor
- October to November - Design works
- December to summer 2017 - Obtain permissions to undertake works
- December to March 2017 - Replace pumps at Dock Bridge
- Summer 2017 - Complete outfall extension works
- Late summer 2017 - Complete dredging works

Working closer with you

In March we held an open day for local businesses in the area to review our plans and comment on our proposals. The day was very informative and gave us a number of new items to consider for this scheme as well as future maintenance in and around the Lytham catchment.

We have summarised the feedback you gave us and include this as part of this newsletter. This includes a number of recommendations which we will follow up on this summer and will report back to you on.

Other planned works

Routine work: One of the key concerns raised at the open day in March was the condition of Wrea Brook. We have therefore added the full length of Wrea Brook to our routine maintenance programme, concentrating on controlling in-channel vegetation where we can access the channel. Similar routine maintenance is due to be carried out on the watercourses shown on the attached plan between July and September. Our full programme can be viewed on the Gov.uk website here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme>

Non routine work: A desilt of Birks Watercourse upstream of where it joins Main Drain is also programmed for September.

Environmental Permitting Regulations

The regulations have changed for permission for carrying out "flood risk activities" on a Main River. There are 3 levels of permitting. For the full guidance see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>.

In summary the 3 types are;

1. Exclusions - No permit required for low risk activities. Vegetation control included in and out of the channel.
2. Exemptions - No permit required provided you register the activity with the Environment Agency and can meet the description and conditions required outlined in the following two documents.

See FRA23 on this document for information on desilting;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/513793/LIT_10444.pdf

And the dredging guide;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/513881/LIT_10431.pdf

3. Bespoke permit - For things not covered by the exemptions a full permit will be required, much like the old Flood Defence Consent, and written permission from the Environment Agency before works go ahead.

For more information or a discussion over any planned works please contact Robert Ide, Environment Agency, Lancashire Asset Performance Team.

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