

# Tenbury Wells Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) - September 2020 update

## Background

Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire is situated on the banks of the River Teme. A tributary, the Kyre Brook, also joins the River Teme in the town. Both the River Teme and the Kyre Brook have a long history of flooding.

Environment Agency engineers have carried out technical assessments in the past to explore whether a public-funded flood risk management scheme was technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and economically viable. Whilst a scheme has been potentially viable in the past, progressing it has not been possible due to other national flood risk priorities and the amount of public money available.

In 2019 we updated our assessment for a Tenbury Wells Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS), reconsidering a number of options and exploring new ones. The preferred option (proposed scheme) is explained below. Unfortunately at that time, a large amount of local money was needed to access national funding before a scheme could be progressed.

After the flooding in February 2020, the Government positively committed an additional £4.9 million of public money to allow a flood scheme for Tenbury to be progressed.

## Proposed scheme details

The proposed Tenbury Wells FRMS will involve the construction of embankments and flood walls through the town. It will include some improvement to existing structures and flood gates are also being considered in specific locations. The map on page 3 is an indicative line of what could be achieved. However, the precise location and height of the bunds and walls is subject to detailed design and consultation with key stakeholders and the community. We are reviewing some specific areas of the scheme, in particular, for example at St. Marys Church, with a view to incorporate additional properties or assets if possible.

The FRMS would be designed to provide a 1 in 100 year Standard of Protection (SoP) (equivalent to a 1% chance of flooding at any given year), with an additional allowance for climate change.

At this stage in the design process, we predict that the scheme, when complete, will reduce risk of flooding to approximately 120 residential and 145 commercial properties.

Please make sure you remain flood aware and ensure you are signed up to our flood warning service. Visit [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings) or call 0345 988 1188 to sign up to get Flood Alerts and Warnings by phone, email and/or text message. This is a free service. Alternatively contact our Flood Resilience Engagement Advisors [Floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk).

The Tenbury Wells FRMS will be designed so as not to increase flood risk elsewhere.

## Local considerations

Tenbury Wells has both environmental and historic features that we will take into consideration during this scheme. These include a number of grade listed buildings within the town and the River Teme being a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to name a few. We have already started consulting with Historic England and Natural England over the scheme and will continue to work with them to safeguard or enhance these assets as much as possible.

## Next steps

We are only at the start of this process and many things still need to be considered for this scheme.

- The launch of our online information page in September 2020 marks the start of our public consultation on the scheme. Due to Coronavirus restrictions we are considering the best way to safely consult with the community during the consultation period and will keep you updated. For now, if you have any questions, comments or queries, please get in touch using the details provided in the 'Contact us' section of this newsletter. Any comments received will be included in our consultation.
- Ground investigation and site survey work will take place from November 2020.
- If possible, our aim is to start construction by early 2022.

## Keeping the local community updated

Keeping you up to date on our progress with this scheme is very important to us. We will continue to provide updates through regular newsletters and our online information page, which can be accessed through <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/tenbury-wells-flood-risk-management-scheme>. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email your contact details to [Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call our National Customer Contact Centre during office hours on 03708 506 506 and we will add you to our mailing list.

You can follow us on Twitter too at @EnvAgencyMids as we will be tweeting about the work we are doing on this scheme.

On the 4 September 2020 we met with Harriett Baldwin MP and Councillors from Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Tenbury Town Council. We discussed the project and its timetable and walked around the town along the routes of the proposed scheme.

## Frequently asked question document (FAQ)

We have produced an FAQ document for this scheme, which is saved on our online information page. The link to this information page is included above. This FAQ document will be added to and updated as the scheme progresses, so please continue to refer to this document in the first instance if you have any questions.

## Contact us

If you have any queries or comments to make about this scheme, please contact us via email at [Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call 03708 506 506. Thank you for taking the time to read this update

**customer service line**      **03708 506 506**

**incident hotline**            **0800 80 70 60**

**floodline**                    **03459 88 11 88**

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# Map of proposed scheme

## Legend

- Embankment
- Treatment to existing wall
- Wall

Please note  
wall/embankment alignment  
is indicative and may change  
as scheme progresses

