

# SELLY PARK SOUTH FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME 2017-18

*Feature and photographs by John Clayton © 2018 except where stated otherwise*

## Work is starting on the Environment Agency's £2.4 million flood risk management scheme in Selly Park South

*Published December 2016*

**To read the press release on this issued by the Environment Agency on 7th December 2016 please click [HERE](#).**

**In the period leading up to Christmas 2016 equipment has been brought on site and work started on preparing the site for the main construction phase which will commence in January.** Selly Park South Flood Action Group has been working closely with the Environment Agency and Birmingham City Council over several years in helping residents defend their homes against flooding in the neighbourhood and positively welcomes the start of work on the scheme which will greatly reduce the risk of flooding in the neighbourhood. The Flood Action Group is made up of volunteers who are local residents, many of whose homes have been at risk of flooding.

**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 20th January** - The area of parkland adjacent to Moor Green Lane and lying between the River Rea and Ashbrook Road has been fenced off while the construction of the scheme is taking place. A grass covered flood defence embankment (called a BUND) will be built around the edge of this area and will temporarily hold flood water for a few hours at the peak of a severe flood until the water naturally drains back to the river once river level falls. The Rea Valley cycle way and footpath has been temporarily diverted around the fenced off area.



Preparation of the land within the fenced off area has continued. Low quality scrub vegetation has been cut down and scraped away and temporary plastic meshing fencing put around the more substantial clumps of trees which will remain. Marker stakes have been put in position indicating the line which the bund will follow.



Meanwhile on the west bank vegetation has been cleared and a trackway built to allow machinery and materials to be brought in for the building of a flood defence wall which will prevent flood water from the river flowing through and around the factory unit to Dogpool Lane, Fashoda Road and Cecil Road.

Removal of vegetation and trees in particular has been kept to the absolute minimum necessary and the whole site underwent a detailed ecological survey to ensure the safeguarding of wildlife before the work started. New and indeed more diverse habitat will be created as part of the scheme.



In the coming weeks, work will begin on diverting the river as seen in this last image a short distance eastwards (to the left) to create a wider area of land on the western bank (on the right of the picture) for the building of the flood defence wall. Daytime traffic signals will be operative outside peak times to allow the creation of a temporary access route for heavy machinery across the west bank parkland. The parkland will be fully restored in the final stages of the project.

**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 27th January - Work ongoing during the THIRD week of January:** A dropped kerb in Moor Green Lane and other work has been carried out to allow the creation of a temporary access route for heavy machinery and materials across the west bank.

parkland. The parkland will be fully restored in the final stages of the project.



**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 3rd February - Work ongoing during the FIRST week of FEBRUARY:** Extensive preparation of the land on the east side of the river by heavy machinery for construction of the flood protection bund which will run alongside Moor Green Lane and along the back of Ashbrook Road. The parkland will be fully restored in the final stages of the project.



**There was also a site visit by senior executives and officers from the Environment Agency.** In this next photograph Chair of the Environment Agency Emma Howard Boyd on the right is seen in discussion with Senior Flood Risk Adviser Mike Adams, while Deputy Chair of the Agency, Richard Macdonald, on the far left and agency officers listen to Mike's explanation of the scheme.



The group then moved on for the **launch of the Selly Park North Flood Risk Management Scheme**. To read about this event please **click [HERE](#)**.

**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 17th February - Work ongoing during the THIRD week of FEBRUARY:** Extensive preparation of the land on the east side of the river by heavy machinery for construction of the flood protection bund which will run alongside Moor Green Lane and along the back of Ashbrook Road. The parkland will be fully restored in the final stages of the project.



**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 24th February - Work ongoing during the FOURTH week of FEBRUARY:** On the edge of the parkland at the rear of Ashbrook Road a trench has been excavated ready for the construction of the flood protection bund (embankment). The trench will be filled and built up with clay which will form the impermeable core of the bund. Less dense soil will then be used to form the two side slopes and topping of the bund and the whole structure will be planted with grass. The parkland will be fully restored in the final stages of the project.



**PROGRESS REPORT Monday 13th March - Work ongoing during the SECOND and THIRD weeks of MARCH:** Work to realign the river channel immediately upstream from Dogpool Bridge has begun. The channel will be moved a few metres to the east to create sufficient working space on the western bank to allow heavy machinery in to build the flood defence wall adjacent to the factory. The realignment will also improve the flow dynamics of the river approaching the bridge. In the image below the mechanical digger is excavating a trench where the east bank reinforcements will be created.



**PROGRESS REPORT Tuesday 21st March - Work ongoing during the FOURTH week of MARCH:** Work to realign the river channel immediately upstream from Dogpool Bridge is continuing. The channel will be moved a short distance to the east to create sufficient working space on the western bank to allow heavy machinery in to build the flood defence wall adjacent to the factory. The realignment will also improve the flow dynamics of the river approaching the bridge. In the image below the east bank reinforcements are be constructed using gabion baskets (steel baskets filled with rocks).



Meanwhile, running parallel behind the houses in Ashbrook Road the foundations for a bund (flood defence embankment) are being created by infilling the previously excavated trench with impermeable clay. This prevents water from forcing its way under the bund.



**PROGRESS REPORT Thursday 13th April - Work ongoing during the SECOND and THIRD week of APRIL:** Image below: Work is almost complete on diverting the channel of the River Rea just upstream from Dogpool Bridge. The channel has been moved a short distance to the east to allow access for heavy machinery to construct the flood defence wall on the western side of the river. The drilling machine is preparing the ground along the line where the concrete slabs of the wall will be piled into the ground.



Image below: The eastern bund (flood defence embankment) is being constructed parallel with the rear of Ashbrook Road. The impermeable clay core of the bund is being laid on top of a clay foundation and will be packed down by a rolling machine. Sloping flanks will then be constructed on either side and the structure covered with topsoil and grassed over.



**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 28th April - Work ongoing during the LAST week of APRIL and the FIRST week of MAY:** Image below:  
Work is complete on diverting the channel of the River Rea just upstream from Dogpool Bridge. The channel has been moved a short distance to the east to allow access for heavy machinery to construct the flood defence wall on the western side of the river. Steel sheets are now being pile-driven into the ground and will be faced with brickwork and topped with a concrete cap to form the wall, very much like Dogpool Bridge.



Image below: The eastern bund (flood defence embankment) is being constructed parallel with the rear of Ashbrook Road, then curving westwards to run parallel with Moor Green Lane as far as the bridge. The impermeable clay core of the bund is laid on top of a clay foundation and packed down by a rolling machine. Sloping flanks are then constructed on either side and the structure covered with topsoil and grassed over.



**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 5th May - Work ongoing during the FIRST HALF of MAY:** Images below: The river channel just upstream of Dogpool Bridge has been moved a short distance to the east to allow access for heavy machinery to construct the flood defence wall on the western side of the river. Steel sheeting is being pile-driven into the ground to form the core of the wall which will be brick clad and have a concrete capping similar to the bridge.



Image below: The eastern bund (flood defence embankment) is being constructed parallel with the rear of Ashbrook Road. An impermeable clay core has been laid on top of a clay foundation. Sloping flanks of aggregate have been laid either side and the structure is being covered with soil ready for grassing. The bund will be extended then to run parallel with Moor Green Lane.



**PROGRESS REPORT Monday 22nd May:** On the western bank of the river sheet piling for the core of the flood defence wall is complete and concrete foundations are being laid for brick cladding, which will make up the face of the wall. Further upstream a flood defence embankment (bund), which will continue on from the wall, is being built. On the eastern side the bund running parallel with the rear of Ashbrook Road is built and the topsoil is drying out ahead of stone removal and seeding with grass. Downstream from the bridge preparation is taking place for the building of concrete flood defence walls.

**The recently taken aerial images below show the full extent of the project:**

*Aerial photographs courtesy of Team Van Oord.*



**The UPPER IMAGE shows the site viewed from the south west.**

Dogpool Bridge is in the centre of the image and the sheet piling work on the western (left) bank is visible. Over to the right the recent construction work on the Ashbrtook Road bund is visible.

**The LOWER IMAGE shows the site viewed from the north.** The River Rea is running between the trees on the left. The existing St Andrews Healthcare buildings are visible in the background. Western bank sheet piling can be seen in the foreground and the under-construction western bund can be seen extending towards the buildings.



**PROGRESS REPORT Friday 16th June: The two images below show different aspects of the flood defences being constructed on the western bank of the river upstream from Dogpool Bridge.**



**The upper image** shows the bund (flood defence embankment) running from near Leakes factory (A) to St Andrews Healthcare (B).

**The lower image** shows the sheet-piled flood defence wall adjacent to Leakes factory which is being clad with a brick fascia. These structures will cut off the flow route of flood water from the river which led to the serious flooding of Dogpool Lane, Fashoda Road, Cecil Road and nearby roads in 2008, 2012 and 2016.



**PROGRESS REPORT Monday 3rd July: The image below shows the ramp which will take the Rea Valley cycle route and footpath over the Moor Green Lane bund (flood defence embankment).**



## PROGRESS REPORT - Late July 2017:



**The upper image** shows work starting on building the flood defence wall on the eastern side of the river downstream from the bridge.

**The lower image** shows continuing work on the brick cladding of the flood defence walls upstream from the bridge. To view an image of the ramp which will take the cycle way and footpath over the flood defence embankment to the east of the bridge, please go to our [FEATURES PAGE](#) report for Monday 3rd July.



**PROGRESS REPORT - 16th August 2017:**



**The image shows the view from Dogpool Bridge, looking downstream, where work has started on constructing the foundations of flood defence walls on both sides of the channel.** The walls will rise to approx 1 metre above current bank top level and extend a few hundred metres downstream, protecting the properties on each side of the bank from being flooded by the river at times of extreme flow.

**PROGRESS REPORT - 7th September 2017 - one day after the ninth anniversary of the major flood of 2008:**



**The image above shows the view from Dogpool Bridge, looking downstream, where work is now well underway constructing flood defence walls on both sides of the channel.** The walls will rise to approx 1 metre above current bank top level and extend a few hundred metres downstream, protecting the properties on each side of the bank from being flooded by the river at times of extreme flow.

**The image below shows the view from Dogpool Bridge, looking upstream, where construction of the western flood defence wall is nearing completion.**



**PROGRESS REPORT - 7th October 2017:**



**The images show views from Dogpool Bridge, looking downstream, where work is currently concentrated on constructing flood defence walls on both sides of the channel, particularly at present on the Cecil Road side.** The walls will rise to approx 1 metre above current bank top level and extend a few hundred metres downstream, protecting the properties on each side of the bank from being flooded by the river at times of extreme flow. On the Cecil Road side new fencing is beginning to be erected at the bottoms of the gardens alongside the riverbank as part of the post-construction restoration work



## **PROGRESS REPORT - 20th October 2017:**



**The image shows views from Dogpool Bridge, looking downstream, where work is currently concentrated on constructing flood defence walls on both sides of the channel.** The walls will rise to approx 1 metre above current bank top level and extend a few hundred metres downstream, protecting the properties on each side of the bank from being flooded by the river at times of extreme flow. On the Cecil Road side new fencing is beginning to be erected at the bottoms of the gardens alongside the riverbank as part of the post-construction restoration work. **PROGRESS REPORT - 3rd November 2017:**



**The image shows the view downstream from Dogpool Bridge, looking south towards the bridge, where work is currently concentrated on building flood defence walls on both sides of the river channel.** The walls are being constructed to rise to an approximate maximum of 1 metre above current bank top level and extend a few hundred metres downstream, protecting the properties in Cecil Road (right) and Moor Green Lane (left) from being flooded by the river at times of extreme flow. On the Cecil Road side the flood defence wall is complete, and new fencing has been erected at the bottoms of the gardens alongside the riverbank as part of the post-construction restoration work for residents. Meanwhile the final major stage of construction is focussed on building the poured concrete reinforced flood defence wall on the Moor Green Lane side.

## PROGRESS REPORT - 17th November 2017:



**The image shows the view upstream towards Dogpool Bridge.** The building of the flood defence wall on the Cecil Road side (right) has been completed as has much of the construction of the flood defence wall on the Moor Green Lane side (left). Work continues on the remaining section of this wall where concrete pouring is currently taking place.

On the upstream (southern) side of the bridge (not pictured) the flood defence walls have been completed for some time and all of the flood defence embankments are in place and awaiting seeding with grass. Work is continuing to complete the ramp which will take the cycleway and footpath over the flood defence embankment alongside Moor Green Lane.

## PROGRESS REPORT - 8th December 2017:



**The image shows the view upstream towards Dogpool Bridge. The building of flood defence walls between the rear of Cecil Road and Moor Green Lane is now completed which marks the end of the main construction phase of the FRMS, meaning that the scheme is fully operational.** Some remaining minor construction works will be completed in the coming weeks and during the first half of 2018 land restoration work on the southern side of Moor Green Lane will be carried along with ensuring that the grass seeding of the flood defence embankments has been successful. It is expected that there will be an official opening ceremony for the scheme early in the New Year. The scheme has been carried out by the Environment Agency, working alongside St Andrew's Healthcare and Birmingham City Council as part of the Rea Catchment Partnership. To visit their website please [HERE](#). Further information specific to Selly Park South FRMS can be found by selecting the Current Projects menu.

## Selly Park South Flood Risk Management Scheme is now operational



**The image shows part of the Selly Park South Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS), viewed upstream towards Dogpool Bridge. The building of flood defence walls between the rear of Cecil Road and Moor Green Lane is now completed which marks the end of the main construction phase of the FRMS, meaning that the scheme is fully operational reducing the risk of river**

During the first half of 2018 land restoration work on the southern side of Moor Green Lane will be carried along with ensuring that the grass seeding of the flood defence embankments has been successful.

The scheme has been carried out by the Environment Agency, working alongside St Andrew's Healthcare and Birmingham City Council as part of the Rea Catchment Partnership. To visit the RCP website please **click [HERE](#)**. Further information specific to Selly Park South FRMS can be found by selecting the Current Projects menu. Selly Park South Neighbourhood Forum and Flood Action Group is also a member of the

Rea Catchment Partnership and has worked closely with the EA and main contractors, Team Van Oord, throughout the project.

**Further information:** For PREVIOUS PROGRESS REPORTS on the construction phase please see the FEATURES page of this website. For BACKGROUND INFORMATION on flooding in Selly Park South and the planning and consultation process for the flood risk management scheme and the associated St Andrews Healthcare Phase 2 development please see relevant articles on the LOCAL NEWS page. To read about LOCAL FLOOD RISK in Selly Park South please refer to the relevant section lower down this HOME PAGE.

## Selly Park South Flood Risk Management Scheme - Official opening event

**With the construction phase completed and the scheme now operational and protecting over 200 homes and businesses in Selly Park South from flooding by the River Rea, an official opening event took place on Friday 19th February. A great example of the Environment Agency working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, St Andrews Healthcare and people in the local community.**



**Above:** A commemorative plaque was unveiled at Christ Church Selly Park. This will soon be placed on permanent display in the vicinity of Dogpool Bridge. Pictured at the unveiling (left to right) are Mike Adams (Environment Agency Senior Flood Risk Advisor, West Midlands Area), John Clayton (Coordinator, Selly Park South Flood Action Group), Steve McCabe (MP for Birmingham Selly Oak Parliamentary Constituency) and Councillor Karen McCarthy (Selly Oak Ward, Birmingham City Council).

**Below:** On site at the ramp where the Rea Valley cycle route and footpath cross the eastern flood defence embankment by Dogpool Bridge. Mike Adams explains the operation of the scheme to those who came along to the opening event and included members of the SPS Flood Action Group and residents of Selly Park South.



*Photographs courtesy of Ian Jones, Environment Agency Flood Risk Manager, West Midlands.*