

Main Construction Works nearing the halfway mark



This issue of the newsletter effectively marks the mid-point of the main construction works. This hugely ambitious two year programme was set by RJ McLeod in January 2015 and it remains on target for completion before Christmas of next year. I would like to reflect on some of the Scheme's major achievements of 2015.

The new St. Mary's Loch Intelligent Water Management System became operational at the end of September as planned. Since then the system dealt with low flows in early October before the abrupt change in the weather brought the normal winter high flows. The system is responding as expected and is now bringing better management of the loch's water capacity during both these extremes. Primarily it is reducing potential flood flows and associated river levels from Craig Douglas to Lindean.

That said, not everything has gone to plan and the Project Team are conscious that landscaping through Philiphaugh, and works at WS-06 (Ettrickhaugh Road) are behind programme. Every effort is being made to correct these local delays and the team would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The programme was structured to construct long lengths of new flood walls and embankments as quickly as possible. This approach enabled the areas behind these defences to experience an increased level of flood protection from an early stage. To that end the Scheme is now at a stage where the flood levels experienced in 1977 would almost entirely be protected against today. On that note, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you next year as we take the partially constructed Scheme to full completion.

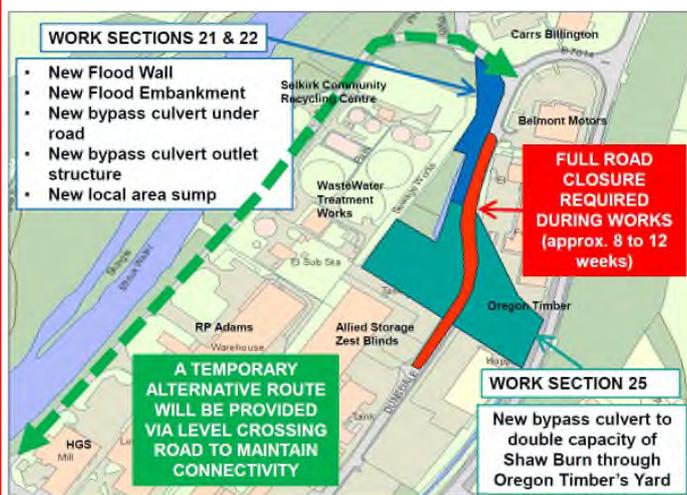
Conor Price, Senior Project Manager

WS-01A (A708 Flood Wall) to begin in January 2016

The revised proposals to construct a new flood wall alongside the A708 at Philiphaugh (WS-01A) instead of ramping the A708 over the new embankment (WS-01) were put out to public consultation during the autumn. The response to this consultation was very positive and RJ McLeod are now pressing ahead with preparations in order to undertake the works as per their proposed programme.

Works will commence on 11th January and run until approx. late May. Two-way traffic lights will be in place for the duration and a full road closure will be required for 2 to 3 days. The Project Team would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation and are ongoing in reviewing all comments and revising the construction plans (as appropriate).

Closure of Dunsdale Haugh during Summer 2016



The draft construction plans for works through 2016 have recently been developed and RJ McLeod have confirmed it is not possible to construct the Scheme at Dunsdale Haugh without a road closure from approx. May until July.

The Project Team is therefore making plans to provide a temporary alternative route through Level Crossing Road.

Full details of this closure and alternative route will be developed and consulted on in the coming months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- In early November the partially complete Long Philip Burn defences were called into action & protected against a number of high water events.
- The A707 road bridge at Philiphaugh Community School has been partially reopened with traffic being controlled by temporary traffic lights. The temporary lights on the A708 have been removed.
- Bridge Street foot-bridge reopened on Friday 9th October. Work continues on the bridge plazas.
- The Project Team continues to hold monthly information evenings for the Bannerfield area - these are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm in Philiphaugh Community Centre.

What's Next? Overview of main works during the next quarter

St. Mary's Loch:

- The new control system is operational, however it is not yet fully automated and RJ McLeod have had a manual involvement in its operation during the autumn. Final commissioning will be undertaken. **The new intelligent water management system has however worked satisfactorily during both periods of low (early October) and high (since mid October) flow.**

Philiphaugh (including Ettrickhaugh Road):

- **WS-01A (A708 Flood Wall) will commence in January.** Works will remain ongoing at WS-06. Final snagging and tree planting works will commence through WS-02 to WS-05.

Long Philip Burn:

- WS-26 (within and above Ravensheugh) is now complete. Works will be ongoing along Corby Linn Road with local access being alternated between Corby Linn Road and the temporary road to suit the works. Construction of the new flood defence wall will continue down the road towards the Angles field where it will merge into the embankment that is already constructed.
- Works will continue along the middle and lower sections of the burn (i.e. within the Angles field and from the new road bridge to the Ettrick). Tree planting will commence.

Riverside (including Bridge Street Footbridge Replacement):

- Works now extend the full length of Riverside (approx. 1.9km). Major works will remain ongoing from the Community Recycling Centre down to the A7 by the (former) Co-op NGT building. Reinstatement of the road infrastructure will remain ongoing along Level Crossing Road and Riverside Road. Landscaping and finishing works will be ongoing between the footbridges.

Bannerfield:

- Works will continue through WS-08 to WS-11. The new flood wall will be constructed from the corner of Philip View all the way along the river edge to the far corner of Corbie Terrace. The embankment adjacent to the play-park will be constructed.

Shaw Burn:

- During the autumn the site clearance (including tree removal) and additional site investigation was undertaken. The final stage of the connection of the new sewer pipe diversion will be undertaken with work at both ends; i.e. into the Wastewater Treatment Works inlet beside Zest Blinds and into the sewer chamber alongside Raeburn Place beside the Shaw Burn.

'Community Benefits' delivered during 2015

The Scheme has been designed to try to deliver maximum community / local benefits. During the procurement stage of the Main Works Contract an ambitious set of targets were set with respect to: employment; training and work experience; and opportunities for local people. RJ McLeod have not only met but have far exceeded those targets. Furthermore, they have delivered support and sponsorship for local schools and community groups including (but not limited to):

- Selkirk High School – The school gardens have benefitted from the addition of wooden frames which will be used as bed boundaries. They were also supplied with various other materials such as kerb stones, pipes for planting etc.
- Philiphaugh Community School & Knowepark Primary School – Children can now walk safely to and from school wearing their hi-vis waistcoats which have been provided by RJ McLeod.
- The Monday Club – RJ McLeod were delighted to match fund with Selkirk Rotary Club to assist The Monday Club in taking approximately 25 Senior Citizens to Kelso Garden Centre to celebrate the club's 40th Birthday.
- Selkirk Christmas Lights – The existing lights were removed to Glasgow where they were individually checked to ensure the LED bulbs were still operational, any replacements were provided and the lights PAT tested before being returned to Selkirk for hanging in late November / early December.
- Common Riding Trust - RJ McLeod were pleased to provide new signage for use on Common Riding morning.



Above: Materials provided to Selkirk High School for use in the school gardens; and the Selkirk Christmas lights are prepared for the journey to Glasgow for a full maintenance check and any necessary repairs.

Big changes throughout the town in 2015.....

All photos taken in November 2015 with works ongoing.

Victoria Park



Work Section 12: A flood embankment has been constructed and erosion protection works undertaken on the river bank. A new high level footpath has been constructed on top of the embankment which has excellent views to the river. The existing track / footpath remains at a lower level beside the trees.

Riverside Road



Work Section 14: A flood protection wall has been constructed along Riverside Road. This wall will be faced with brick to echo the mill buildings - the brick will continue along the length of wall visible in this photo. There is a footpath on the river side of the wall. This wall protects Riverside from a 1 in 500 years flood.

Along the Ettrick



Work Section 3: An embankment has been constructed running parallel to the Philiphough Mill Lade, turning towards high ground (i.e. Works Section 2) just before the Murray's Cauld. Defences have been constructed all the way to the main town bridge. The footpath network has also been upgraded.

Old Mill Farm



Work Section 2: An embankment has been constructed at the western end of Old Mill Farm. This will tie into the A708 flood defence wall, protecting this low lying area from flooding from the Ettrick and Yarrow Waters. The culvert in the foreground acts as a flow control from the Ettrick Water into the Mill Lade.

Ettrickhaugh Road



Work Section 6: A flood protection wall has been constructed along the Mill Lade to protect properties in this area from flooding from the Ettrick. This wall also has the effect of narrowing the Mill Lade which will increase the velocity of flow which should improve the environmental condition of the lade.

Long Philip Burn



Work Section 28: A new meandering channel for the Long Philip Burn has been created through the Angles Field and contained between two new embankments. This forms a new area of parkland: a path will run through the park connecting to Bridge Street footbridge to the east & the Three Brethren to the west.

Emergency Contact Arrangements

If you require to contact the Project Team outside of normal office hours (after 5pm weekdays and anytime at weekends) please call **01896 752111**. This is SBC's emergency number and from here your call will be directed to the appropriate member of the Project Team. This number should be used to notify us of any issues which may need an immediate response or action. This number should also be used throughout the festive break, from 12 noon on Friday 18th December until 8am on Tuesday 5th January 2016. **At all other times and for all routine enquiries please use the contact details opposite.**

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about any aspect of the construction work currently underway or planned for the next 12 months please don't hesitate to contact the Project Team. Similarly, we would be pleased to receive comments about this Newsletter to help us improve future editions.

Contact Details

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

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Phone: 07538 114 410

Sylvia Taylor - Public Liaison Officer: RJ McLeod

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Main Site Compound

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme

South Bridge Street

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Phone: 01750 725 448

Significant progress in and around Bannerfield in recent weeks

Since Issue 4 of the newsletter a huge amount of progress has been made on works in and around Bannerfield, as shown by this series of photos. These works will include the construction of flood defence walls & embankments; the re-empting of sections of the Long Philip Burn; the construction of a new plaza area at Bridge Street footbridge; the replacement of pedestrian footbridges across the burn; and the replacement of the A707 road bridge. The works will continue throughout the winter and will be substantially complete by summer 2016.



Clockwise from top right: WS-11 Embankment & Site Compound; Construction of WS-10 Wall; Excavation for WS-09 Wall & Erosion Protection; Re-empting of Long Philip Burn at WS-32; Works on wall & burn at WS-32. **All taken in November 2015.**