

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme

Main Works Newsletter

Issue 9

November 2016

Selkirk protected

After 23 months of construction the defences for the Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme are complete.

The Scheme's Project Manager, Conor Price, confirmed that the final section of the new flood defences was completed earlier this month after the Scheme's contractor, RJ McLeod, poured the last section of concrete on the new Shaw Burn defences alongside the A7 by Oregon Timber. This completed the defences on the Shaw Burn which historically presented a significant risk to the lower Riverside Business Park. The defences against the Ettrick Water, Yarrow Water and Long Philip Burn had all been completed earlier in the summer.

Conor commented: "There was a huge sense of satisfaction watching that last piece of flood wall complete the tapestry of protective systems within this major civil engineering project. It is now over seven years since the project team commenced the design, and having travelled through the whole of that journey with our designers from CH2M, the people of Selkirk, and more recently the construction team from RJ McLeod it is my pleasure, on behalf of the team, to confirm that Selkirk is now protected. Our job to deliver flood protection is complete.

"The St. Mary's Loch Intelligent Water Management System, which was operational for last winter's storms remains a key part of the Scheme and is once again ready for any storm events that develop this year.

"The project itself remains on target to be completed on time and on budget, and with the primary objective of delivering flood protection achieved the project team can now turn their focus to completing the reinstatement of the town and especially any private land which was occupied to facilitate the Scheme's construction."

Completion of Shaw Burn works: Scheme is fully operational

One part of the Scheme is to protect property and business against a 1 in 200 years (plus climate change) flood event from the Shaw Burn. This flood risk exists through the Burn's lower reach at Dunsdale Haugh from where it passes under the A7 at Raeburn Place to where it meets the Ettrick Water.

The Scheme has improved, and stabilised the banks, of an approximately 40m stretch of the Burn at Raeburn Place. The burn then flows parallel to the A7 with a new flood wall constructed between the Burn and Oregon Timber. The Burn then flows under Oregon's yard in a culvert: a second culvert has been installed by the Scheme to double the buried capacity of the Burn. A flood wall has been constructed along Dunsdale Haugh and previously open sections of the Burn opposite Belmont Motors and Carrs Billington have been culverted.

The wall behind the former Co-op site is to protect against the Ettrick Water backing-up along the Burn, as almost happened during Storm Frank in December 2015.



The Shaw Burn runs from a catchment around the Pot Loch to the Ettrick Water by Bridgeheugh, and runs through what is, for the most part, a heavily urbanised landscape.

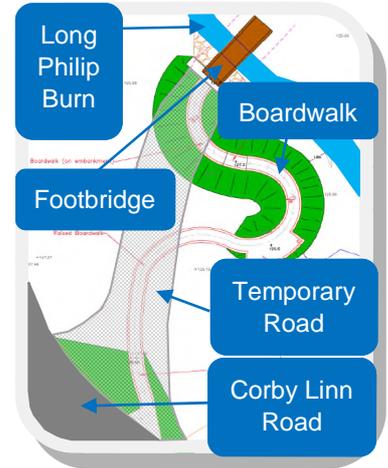
The limited space along the route of the Burn presented a significant logistical challenge for the construction teams.

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

Long Philip Burn boardwalk

Work is underway to finalise the design of a new boardwalk which will provide a permanent link between the Long Philip Burn footbridge (downstream of Ravensheugh House) and Corby Linn Road. This will provide both an entrance to the eastern end of, and a view down, the new Long Philip Burn park corridor. At the moment this link is being provided by the final section of the temporary access road which was constructed before the main construction works.

This plan shows the initial concept design - the expectation is that the final design will feature less of a bend in the middle section. This work will be undertaken in 2017 as part of the Finishing Works Programme.



'Bannerfield Garden Challenge'

As part of the Scheme's *Bannerfield Community Initiative* the 'Bannerfield Garden Challenge' was held in early September. The challenge was designed to help residents tidy up their gardens and get rid of any rubbish and old or broken garden equipment and furniture which was taking up space in the gardens. Below are some key facts and figures about the challenge:

- 24 volunteers from various community groups and public organisations
- Over 150 hours of work undertaken by the volunteers during the course of the day
- 8 skips of rubbish removed with recyclable material taken to Selkirk Recycling Centre
- 40 gardens tidied
- 10 partner organisations



Water Association of Finland

In September the Scheme hosted a visit and site tour for 33 members of the Water Association of Finland of part of their four day tour of Scotland.



The Scheme's project team has also recently facilitated site tours as part of Doors Open Day and for the local Men's Group. We also visited the local Cubs group and led a session about the new flood defences. We are now planning a series of school visits for early 2017 before the Scheme's official opening in the spring.



Above: Left - Representatives from the Scheme's project team, the housing associations, Selkirk Community Council & Blooming Selkirk hard at work. **Right** - Waste being processed and taken away at Murray Place.

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

Bridge plaza areas near completion

Following the installation of the new Bridge Street Footbridge in September 2015, work has been underway throughout 2016 on the construction of the new plaza areas on both sides of the bridge. These areas incorporate Disability Discrimination Act compliant ramps and steps to ensure ease of access for all members of the community. To minimise disruption to the community this work has been carried out without any further closures of the bridge. This has meant it has taken longer to complete the work than would have been the case with a full bridge closure.



With the construction work nearing completion, reinstatement work has been ongoing. The photos below show Bannerfield Allotments and the Ettrickhaugh Road work corridor.

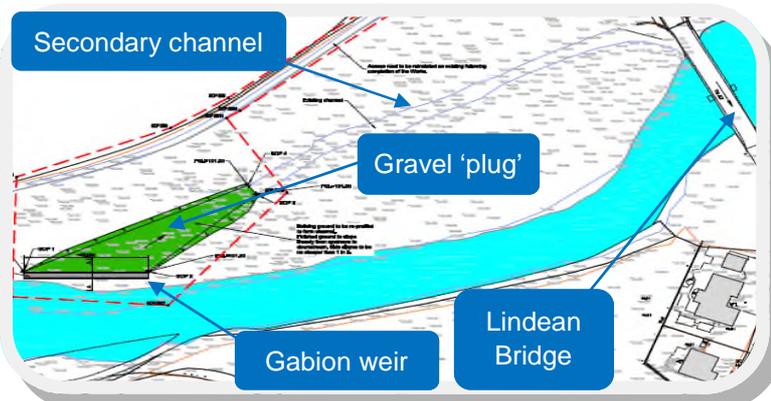


Lindean channel clearance and weir

One of the final pieces of construction work to be undertaken as part of the Scheme was the construction of a weir at the mouth of the secondary channel off the Ettrick Water (immediately upstream of Lindean Bridge) and the removal, and reuse on site, of approximately 1,500 tonnes of river gravel which had built up and 'plugged' the mouth of the secondary channel.

This work is a follow-on to work which was undertaken at the downstream end of the secondary channel in 2010. The weir is designed so that the Ettrick will flow into the secondary channel approximately four to six times a year. This means that the channel will be self-cleansing and should therefore require little ongoing maintenance.

This work is part of the Council's approach to reducing flood risk to the Lindean area.



Public Art Installations

In September Scottish Borders Council issued a call for tenders for three public art installations at locations close to the new flood defences: the Long Philip Burn park corridor (as shown below); the Riverside corridor (between Bridge Street footbridge and the Common Riding crossing point); and the Bannerfield plaza (next to the 'Arches').

The Scheme's project team is currently reviewing the Stage 1 conceptual submissions and in late November will be inviting up to 12 artists to prepare detailed design proposals. A mini public exhibition will be held in February to allow the community to view and comment on the Stage 2 detailed design submissions before contracts for the three installations are awarded. Details of the exhibition will be provided via the Council's website, on social media and in the local press and an update will be provided in our next newsletter.

The installations are due to be completed by the beginning of September 2017.



Long Philip Burn Corridor
May 2016

Scheme completion

With the completion of the new flood defences, the Scheme is fully operational approximately six weeks ahead of programme.

All other 'main works' are programmed to be completed by the end of the year, however RJ McLeod will retain a presence in Selkirk throughout 2017 to complete any snagging works and to manage the new landscape.

The next 12 months will also see a separate Finishing Works Programme deliver a number of localised pieces of work which are mostly related to reinstating the landscape. These include:

- The reinstatement of gardens behind Ettrickhaugh Road
- The Public Art Installations
- The new Long Philip Burn boardwalk.

SEPA is currently updating their Floodline Flood Warning System to take account of the new defences. As appropriate, customers in Selkirk will receive information from SEPA regarding any changes to their warnings.

The Project Team is always happy to speak to community groups or other organisations about the Scheme. If you would like a member of the team to give a talk about the Scheme or are interested in a guided tour of the completed Scheme please contact Andrew Dinnett (contact details below) or email selkirkfps@scotborders.gov.uk.

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact Andrew Dinnett - Project and Design Liaison Engineer:

Email: andrew.dinnett@scotborders.gov.uk

Phone: 07538 114 410

During the festive break (23rd December to 4th January 2017) any issues which may need our immediate attention should be reported to Scottish Borders Council on 01896 752111. The staff at SBC will ensure that the SFPS Project Team is made aware of the issue. Outwith these dates, issues should be reported to the Main Site Compound.

Main Site Compound

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme
South Bridge Street
Selkirk, TD7 5DR

Email: selkirkfps@scotborders.gov.uk

Phone: 01750 725 448

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.