

Severn Stoke Flood Alleviation Scheme – June 2022

This written update provides information on progress to date and next steps, following the last written update in October 2021 and ongoing updates with the community flood action group.

Progress to date

The detailed design of Severn Stoke's flood alleviation scheme are now complete, including the embankment and the realignment of Ham Lane which crosses over it.

The sketch below illustrates the proposed alignment of the new flood embankment.

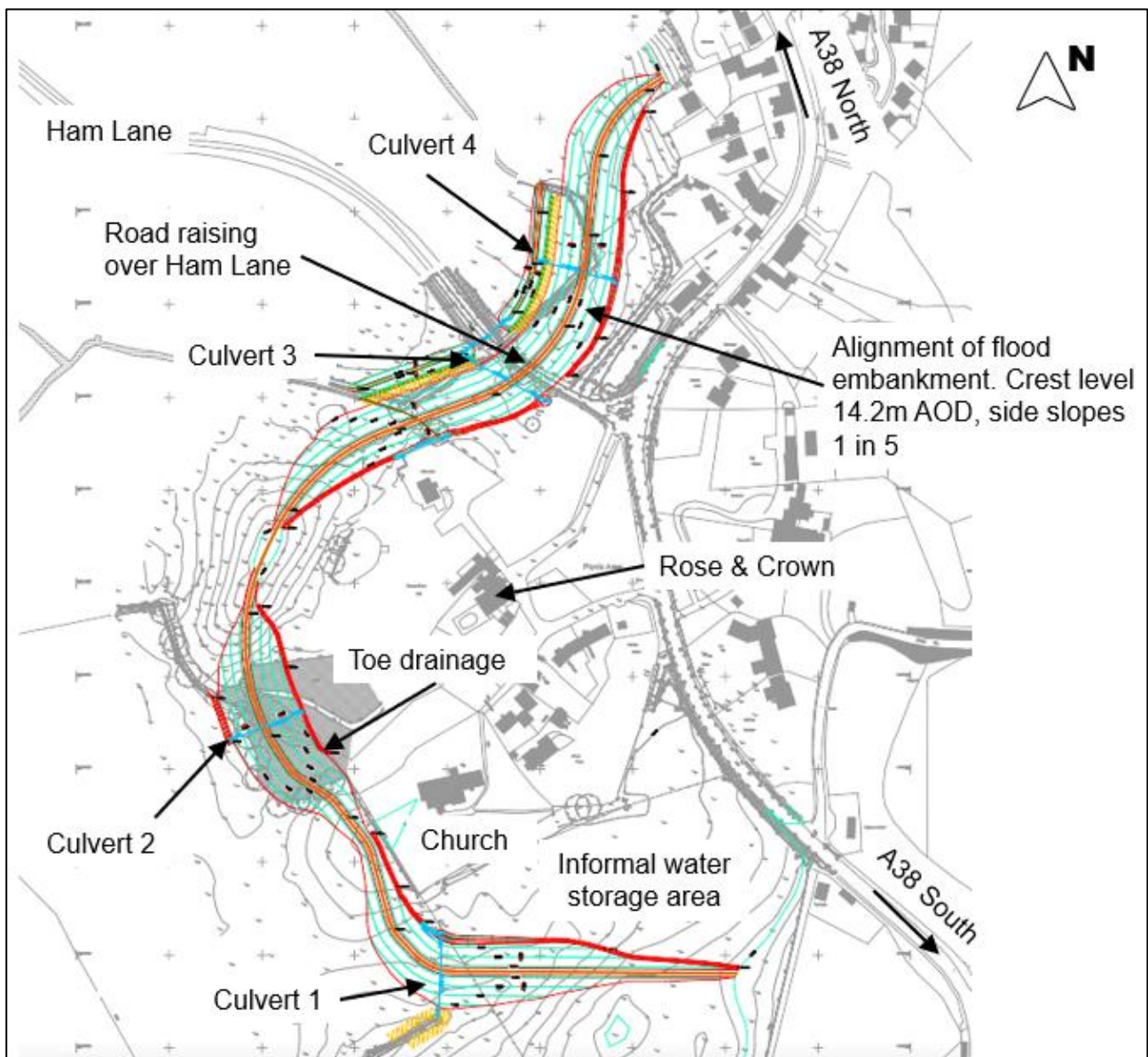


Fig 1 General Arrangement of Proposed Embankment

The first phase of the archaeological evaluation of the area covered by the proposed embankment and highway realignment was undertaken in November 2021. The report covering the initial findings was submitted to the Environment Agency in mid-December 2021. The excavations uncovered material from the 12th to 16th centuries, a small quantity of Roman pottery and evidence of a medieval village to the south of St Denys' Church. In the northern area of the site evidence was found of two paleochannels. Further detailed excavations will be undertaken in these areas to obtain more information about these finds, this work will be carried out in parallel with the construction phase of the scheme.

In February 2022 work commenced on the first phase of site clearance. Despite delays caused by flooding of the village this work was completed in March 2022. The final phase of site clearance will start in September 2022 where a small copse of trees in the Glebe Land and some hedges will be removed to prevent birds nesting as this would delay future construction.

Relevant surveys have been completed. For example, the Great Crested Newt Survey was undertaken in April 2022, which will enable us to apply for a Great Crested Newt Licence to permit the capture and translocation of Newts prior to construction commencing.

Following a meeting in mid-May held in the grounds of the Rose and Crown and attended by Harriett Baldwin MP, Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council, J Prosser and Sons Ltd, representatives of the flood action group and the Environment Agency, agreement was reached on the temporary storage of material to be used in the scheme. We agreed that the stockpile of approximately 10,000m³ of material currently stored near Powick as part of the Worcester Southern Link Road scheme would remain there until the end of August 2022. In September 2022 this material will be moved to Severn Stoke where it will be stockpiled in advance of construction. This quantity is approximately one third of the total material that will be required to complete the scheme. The remaining material will be delivered to site when it becomes available.

Work is continuing with discharging the planning conditions, submitting, and approving the full business case, and engaging a contractor to take overall control of site management when work starts. With permitting and approvals for the scheme being in place we anticipate further site clearance will commence in September and construction will start in October 2022. Due to the potential for a wet autumn meaning that conditions are not suitable for earth moving we are cautious about this timeframe and advise that construction start could change to spring 2023. We are currently planning construction will take six months and are aiming for full completion in summer 2023. We will continue to update you on progress as the scheme progresses.

Contact us

If you have any queries or comments about the proposed scheme, please contact the Environment Agency via email at paul.jones2@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 03708 506 506. Thank you for taking the time to read this update.