

## December Update: Jubilee River, Black Potts weir repairs

15 December 2020

The Jubilee River is part of a man-made flood alleviation scheme, consisting of an 11.6 km stretch of naturalistic river and habitats, which reduces the flood risk to approximately 3,000 properties in Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton.

Black Potts Weir is the final control structure on the Jubilee River, it slows down the water as it moves over the weir allowing us to reduce flood risk and manage river levels.

In August 2020, our divers surveyed the weir, and found that downstream area of the weir had been eroded and required immediate repair.

Our priorities for repairing Black Potts Weir are:

- Restore the weir scour protection.
- Return the Jubilee River to operation to reduce the risk of flooding as soon as possible. This will be carefully planned depending on the stage of repair works and the river conditions.

### Timescales

The work is progressing as planned.

At the end of Phase 1 we will have a level of operational capability for the Jubilee River.

In October we carried out site surveys to give us more information for the repair work needed. The following timescales of the work may also be subject to changing weather and river conditions.

- Phase 1 - November and December: We are removing damaged grout mattresses (the scour protection) and installing sheet piling. To ensure safe conditions for workers carrying out repairs, we have reduced the flow rate down the Jubilee River. This may also cause a minor reduction in water levels in the channel. Set for completion by end of December. [See Annex for photos of Phase 1.](#)
- Should weather and river conditions worsen we will carefully manage flows between the main river Thames and the Jubilee River. The amount of flow we pass down the Jubilee River will be determined by the level of flood risk to people and property and the safety of the weir and railway viaduct.
- Phase 2 - January to March 2021: We will safeguard the Phase 1 repairs by placing heavy rock armour. This will stop any future scour and ensure that the weir and the Jubilee River will continue operate to reduce the risk of flooding for the local community into the future. Demobilisation of site at Home Park will then take place.

### Summary of the work in Phase 1

- We are on track to finish Phase 1 before Christmas giving us a level of operational capability for the Jubilee River.
- We've monitored river forecasts closely to ensure we can continue to work safely.
- We've increased our construction hours to include weekend working.
- We've increased the number of dive teams working on the repairs.
- We will be starting up works for Phase 2 in the first week of January.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88

## Continued protection from flooding

### 1. Weather forecast

Our teams have been keeping a close eye on the long term forecast. The River Thames needs long and continuous days of rain to flood, providing us with ample time to prepare for any flooding.

### 2. River Modelling

Based on the analysis of our river modelling, we have been visiting known locations at risk of flooding in Eton, Maidenhead and Windsor. This has helped us assess and determine the most feasible and appropriate local flood measures should flooding be forecast.

### 3. Community protection

We are working with our partners to ensure we have support for communities if required.

Due to our continuous and close monitoring of the levels in the Thames we will have ample time to support the community by deploying measures such as sandbags where necessary.

We also have a bespoke flood warning and alert system for residents along the Jubilee River should flooding be expected.

### 4. Maidenhead, Windsor & Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme

We will continue to operate the other elements of the Maidenhead, Windsor & Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme (MWEFAS), such as the existing flood gates and supporting pump plan that reduces flood risk to Cookham and north Maidenhead.

## What do I need to do?

If you live near the Jubilee River, you must [sign up to Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings](#), as we have a bespoke alert and warning system for the local community. We have changed our threshold for alerts and warnings in the area to give you plenty of warning in case of potential flooding.

- Find out if you're at risk of flooding by entering your postcode at [www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk](http://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk)
- Stay aware of the risk of flooding in your area by [signing up for flood alerts and warnings](#). You'll be alerted by phone, email or text when flooding is expected.
- Monitor [local river levels in England](#) and [weather conditions](#).

## Further information

Follow us on Twitter [@EnvAgencySE](#) or email [enquiries\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Annex: Photos from Phase 1

1. We set up the site compound at Home Park, Windsor (5 Nov and 12 Nov)



2. We made a floating pontoon that has been tethered next to the weir for the main working platform (12 Nov and 18 Nov)



3. Divers and machinery have been busy cutting away the grout mattress. This mattress forms the erosion protection for the weir (25 Nov to 2 Dec)



4. Rock armour for the next phase of works arrived (25 Nov)



5. Cranes on floating pontoon by Black Potts Weir, operations taking place (7 Dec)



6. Removal of damaged grout mattress, with the new rock armour in the background (9 Dec)

