

Starcross and Cockwood Tidal Defence Scheme

May 2018

Project Overview

The Starcross and Cockwood Tidal Defence Scheme (TDS) is one of the projects identified as part of the Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy to manage tidal flood risk into the longer term around the estuary. With present-day risks, and with predictions of increasing sea levels and greater intensity storms, improving defences around the Exe Estuary and elsewhere to protect communities is essential. The recently completed Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme reduces the risk to communities and main rail line within the Exe Estuary from storm driven waves. However, the Starcross and Cockwood scheme further reduces the risk to homes and businesses from tidal flooding due to sea level rise and tidal surges, as experienced during recent storms .

The Starcross and Cockwood scheme involves the improvement and installation of new floodgates and raising walls within Starcross and around Cockwood Harbour. The scheme reduces the risk of tidal flooding to over 650 residential and commercial properties.

Cockwood Harbour

Since work commenced at Cockwood Harbour in January 2018, nine bored concrete piles and 115m length of steel piles have been installed to form the structure of the new flood wall.

Since March, we have;

- Constructed reinforced concrete harbour walls and concrete 'infills' between the steel piles to form the core of the new wall
- Installed a new drainage system, including large 600mm diameter pipes to allow for storage of surface water during high tides
- Installed a new kerb line and tarmac laid ready for the road to be open for the early May bank holiday weekend
- Started work installing the masonry cladding



Works will resume on the 8th May, focusing on the construction of the new slipway at the south west corner. Due to the shallow foundations of the existing wall neighbouring this work, a road closure will be required to ensure the construction of the new slipway can be completed safely.

The project team will be working hard to complete this element of work quickly in order to open the road for the Whitsun bank holiday and half term week (28th May to 1st June). Weekday road closures will be required through June in order to complete the outstanding works safely and efficiently.

Installation of the masonry cladding around the new wall will continue through May and June, to ensure the finished defence is aesthetically sympathetic to the heritage of the harbour. The new wall along the south of the harbour will incorporate niche habitats, facilities for planters, hanging baskets and irrigation systems, as well as thirty new mooring connections.

At the north of the harbour, masonry cladding of the new retaining wall structures at the slipway has been completed. Works through May will focus on reinstating the slipway and construction of the new flood gate structure. Raising of the north wall is in progress and will continue through May. A temporary handrail will be in place until the permanent marine heritage style handrail is installed.

Starcross 1 (near Southtown Road)

Works at this location include the construction of a reinforced structure to accommodate a new tidal flood gate, and raising of the existing masonry walls over the length of the 50m long tidal inlet. These works are programmed to be completed towards the end of the project programme, during June and July.

Starcross 2 (Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club)

Works are suspended at this site following the discovery of a large underground chamber beneath the existing car park, believed to be an underground reservoir associated with Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s atmospheric railway.

Since the discovery, an unmanned submersible remotely operated vehicle has been used to complete an underwater survey of the chamber. Archaeologists have completed ground penetrating radar surveys and laser scans to help define and understand this historically important discovery.

These surveys have identified that there are in fact two underground chambers at this location, 32m in length and joined by ten underground arches.

The project team are currently liaising with archaeologists and completing structural assessments to determine the next steps.



Starcross 3 (Generals Lane Slipway)

Works are due to start at the Generals Lane slipway towards the end of May. Works at this location have been delayed to ensure that the slipway at the North of Cockwood harbour is useable for the public prior to closing access to the Generals Lane slipway.

Works at Generals Lane include the installation of a new tidal flood gate and supporting reinforced concrete structure and access steps, and raising of the neighbouring walls. Works at this location are due to be complete in June.

The project team would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by the scheme, and thank you for your understanding and co-operation during the installation of these important tidal defence works.

For further information about the Starcross & Cockwood Tidal Defence Scheme, your contacts are:

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