

Update from the Environment Agency 20th October 2020

I would like to take the opportunity to provide you with an update as I have taken on Tom Fletcher's role in relation to the Portreath Flood Alleviation project, I think Tom might have recently mentioned this to you.

The project team continues to make good progress with design related activities to increase the capacity of the old river channel (perched channel) to take excess flood water to the sea from the tunnel. We are undertaking hydraulic modelling to determine the degree of flood risk benefit the proposed improvements to the old river channel will provide to the Portreath community.

The proposed improvements include widening sections of the existing channel and constructing retaining structures along the channel where needed. Increasing the capacity of the existing channel is not without challenge, such as increasing the capacity at existing bridge crossing points, however potential solutions have been identified and are being progressed through the design process.

During the design phase the project team are also in the process of carefully considering any potential water quality related impacts that could arise from diverting flows through the old river channel. We aim to deliver flood risk benefits to the community whilst ensuring that there are no detrimental impacts on bathing water standards in Portreath.

As part of the design process we will be undertaking further detailed surveys during the forthcoming winter months, such as environmental surveys along the old river channel and we will keep you up to date as this progresses.

In the new year we aim to be in a position to provide more detailed information on the proposed improvements to the old river channel and we would like to discuss them with you and welcome your feedback at that time.

We are proactively forward planning all future project activities and we currently have an estimated construction start date during late 2021.

I would also like to mention that Helen Dobby, Area Director for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly recently spoke with George Eustice MP in relation to the Portreath flood alleviation scheme to discuss general progress. We confirmed to George Eustice MP that we continue to progress with the design phase of the project and that we aim to commence construction towards the end of 2021.

I will provide further updates in due course, but if you have any questions in the meantime then please let me know.

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Partnership and Strategic Overview

**Flood & Coastal Risk Management
Devon Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly Area**