

Starcross and Cockwood Tidal Defence Scheme

March 2018

Project Overview

The Starcross and Cockwood Tidal Defence Scheme (TDS) forms part of the long term Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy. With global predictions of increasing sea levels along with greater intensity storms, the need for raised coastal defences is inevitable. The Dawlish Warren sand spit provides shelter for communities within the Exe Estuary from wave attack. However, with tidal levels and storm surge on the increase, local communities and businesses within Starcross and Cockwood require further protection.

The philosophy behind the Starcross and Cockwood TDS is to raise the levels of existing tidal defences in line with the predicted rise in both sea and storm surge levels. The scheme is estimated to reduce the risk of tidal flooding to over 650 residential and commercial properties. This primarily involves the installation of new floodgates and raising the sea defence walls in both Starcross and Cockwood Harbour.

Cockwood Harbour

Work commenced in Cockwood Harbour on the 8th January 2018. A stone causeway was constructed to facilitate the works. Nine bored concrete piles were successfully installed at the south west corner of the harbour prior to the road re-opening for February half term.

During March, a 115m long steel pile wall has been installed to provide the core of the new, higher flood defence wall along the south edge of the harbour. The ground was pre-drilled to reduce vibration during the installation of the steel piles, which were completed ahead of schedule.

New drainage is to be installed behind the new wall, and the entire structure will be clad in masonry in keeping with the aesthetic of the harbour.



Due to the ground conditions being slightly worse than expected, there has been a design change affecting the works in the road at the South West corner of the harbour. This has led to the requirement for some additional works, and thus it is no longer possible to complete the permanent works at this location prior to the Easter holidays. In order to allow the works to be completed efficiently, and ensure road closures are not required going into the summer period, **Dawlish Warren road (at the south of the harbour) will remain closed throughout the Easter holiday period.** The project team would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by this change, but hope you can appreciate the logic behind the decision.

During the Easter holiday period (30th March to 15th April) access will be opened to Cockwood Village from the A379 via Church Road, to allow access for residents and customers. Traffic lights on the A379, at the north of the harbour, will be suspended during the Easter holiday period to ease traffic flow.

At the north of the harbour, two new reinforced concrete retaining structures have been constructed to facilitate the new flood gate structure. Works will be limited in this area during the Easter holiday period, but will resume in mid-April when works will focus on reinstating the slipway, constructing the flood gate structures and access steps, and raising the existing wall on the northern edge of the harbour.

Starcross 1 (near Southtown Road)

At the tidal inlet slipway at the north end of Starcross, the project team took advantage of an opportunity to start works on the new flood gate structure ahead of programme. Unfortunately, a sewer was found to be located within the extent of the works, and works are on hold awaiting the diversion of this service.

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.

Starcross 2 (Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club)



Works commenced earlier in the year removing the existing concrete car park surface and preparing the formation for the new surface. The car park is being reinstated to accommodate a higher crest level at the slipway.

As part of these works, a masonry entrance was uncovered which led to a large underground chamber, believed to be linked to Isambard Kingdom Brunel's atmospheric railway. Works will likely be suspended in the area while this exciting discovery is investigated and recorded. Please respect the exclusion fencing in the area and keep clear of the chamber and the entrance.

A new concrete slab has been poured at the slipway. The surrounding ground will be backfilled and levelled, so that the slipway is useable over the Easter weekend.

Starcross 3 (Generals Lane Slipway)

Works are due to start at the Generals Lane slipway towards the end of April. Works will be sequenced 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 this location 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:

Lawrence Jones, Site Agent
Rob Butler, Project Manager

07557 540308
07342 078407

Lawrence.Jones@BAMNuttall.co.uk
Rob.Butler@Environment-Agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk