

Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Report 2022



Honorary Alderman Tony Kennedy
16th March 2022



Scrutiny Report

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- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Strategic Flood Risk Management Board / Birmingham Water Group meetings
- First Avenue Weir Removals, River Rea, Selly Park North
- Hilltop Brook, Handsworth
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Climate Emergency

- On 11th June 2019, Birmingham City Council announced a climate emergency and made the commitment to reduce the city's carbon emissions, with an aspiration to become net zero carbon by 2030.
- The impact of climate change or changing weather patterns will not just be felt afar, and the impact on Birmingham residents of increased extreme weather events, including flooding, droughts and heatwave is likely to be profound, with increasing risks to both life and property.

LLFA Roles / Responsibilities

- LLFA as Statutory consultee for Planning / Surface water
- Attracting external grants such as Grant in Aid & Local Levy
- Flood alleviation and ongoing pipeline of schemes,
- Flood incident response and out of hours rota duty
- Partnership works with Environment Agency, Landscape Practice Group and Trent Rivers Trust
- Emergency works / works in the interest of Health and Safety for 11 BCC Reservoirs
- Reservoir Works and Plans
- Determine Consents under s23 of Land Drainage Act



Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The BCC strategy update has been postponed due to the Environment Agency's National Strategy, 2021 guidance from the Local Government Association and recent consultations on the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) and River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

It will also include recent changes to the climate change allowances and will be supported by an updated Habitats Regulation Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, in light of DEFRA and Natural England advice.



Strategic Board & Birmingham Water Group meetings

- Partnership approach and regular meetings involving Birmingham City Council, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Kier
- 27 projects put forward in the new 6 year pipeline – areas targeted on a risk based approach, with best chances of attracting funding
- The pipeline is anticipating to better protect approx. 700 residential and commercial properties over 6 years
- The programme is currently valued at £5m, subject to business cases being submitted to the Environment Agency.

First Avenue Weir Removals, River Rea, Selly Park North



- Work delivered by BCC Flood Risk Contractors / BCC FRM team on behalf of the Environment Agency
- Two complete weir removals and two partial removals
- Re-naturalisation of the channel and use of gravels
- Haybales used to capture silt
- BCC site supervision
- Will lower water levels and refurnish the Rea with additional capacity
- Decrease flood risk
- Improve fish passage and improve habitats

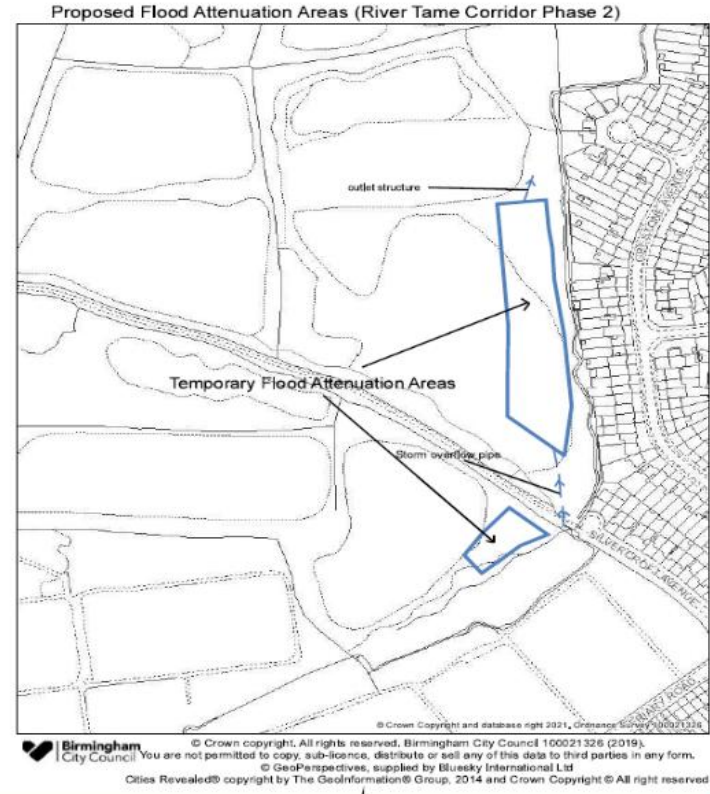
Hilltop Brook, Handsworth Wood

Breakout and rebuild existing wing walls and installation of two bends with concrete surround to form new inlet structure.

Fabricate and install new raking trash screen to new inlet structure.

Install non- return flap valve to existing outfall and construction of a new brick flood wall and water tightening measures to existing concrete panels at Sunningdale Close

Next stage: Shallow excavation of existing ground to form large natural earth depressions to act as a storage areas adjacent to the existing watercourse.



Periera Rd Allotments, Harborne

- Stabilised existing eroded sections using large boulder stones. Clear channel of major blockages
- Excavated channel to restore channel capacity
- Structural survey to culvert and repair fractures/cracks to existing brick culvert. Replace missing defective brickwork.
- Carry out localised underpinning works to eroded section of culvert and new bridge.



Selly Park North and South Schemes - Complete



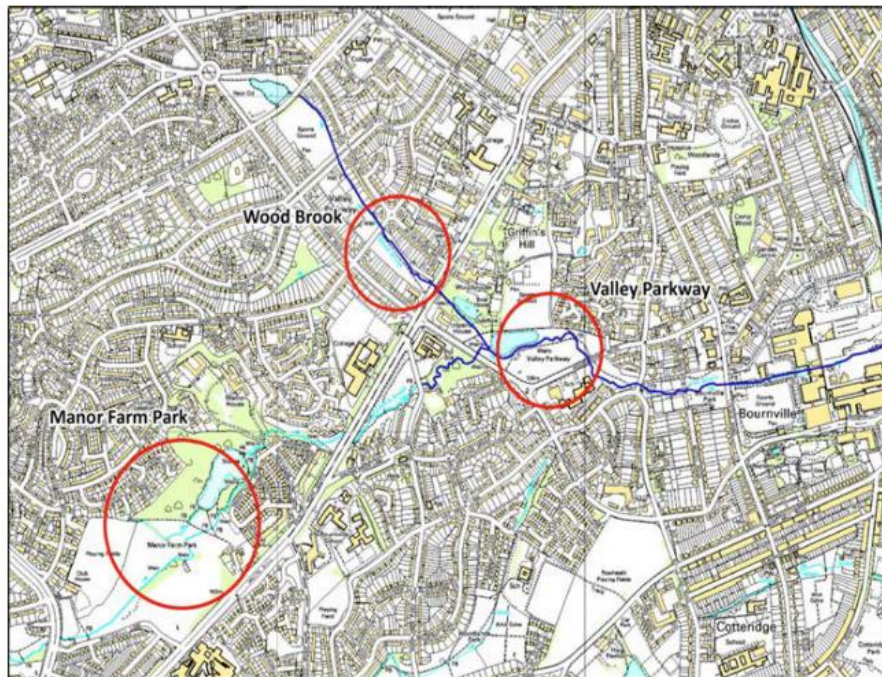
Upper Bourn Brook and Lower Rea



Environment
Agency



Birmingham
City Council



- **Upper Bourn Brook Study**

The Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Birmingham City Council are working together on a catchment wide study to understand the flood risk and develop flood mitigation options for the upper Bourn Brook catchment.

- **Lower Rea and The Bourn**

The Environment Agency are continuing to working on a catchment wide study to understand the flood risk and develop flood mitigation options for the Bourn and Lower Rea catchment. Currently at Strategic Outline Case development stage (funded by Government Grant in Aid) to find a preferred way forward and viable scheme.



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Environment Agency Schemes - Current



Perry Barr and Witton flood risk management scheme

1,400 properties at risk from this section of the River Tame, including 950 residential properties. Construction work at the Sandwell Valley will increase flood storage capacity. Birmingham City Council made a contribution of £600k to this scheme in early 2019.



Bromford and Castle Vale flood risk management scheme

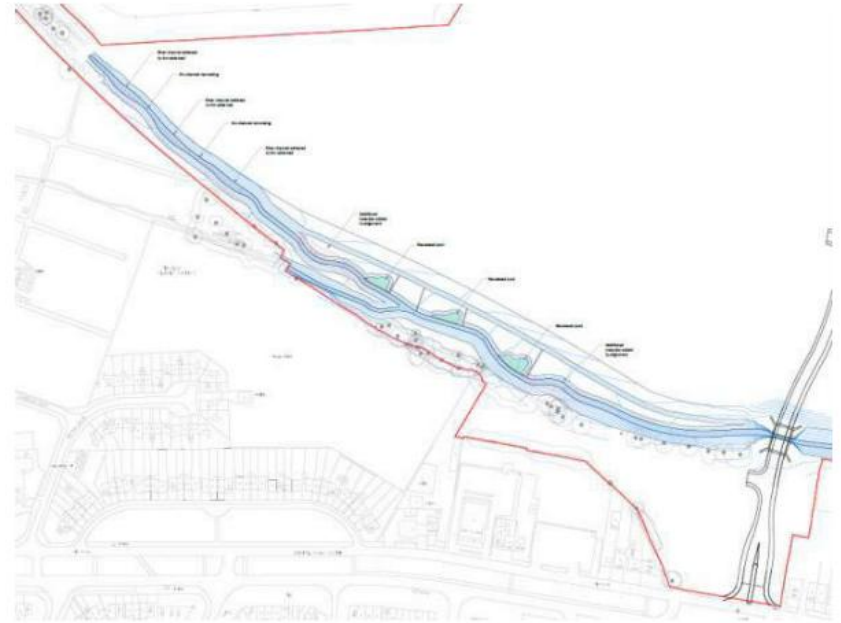
This scheme will better protect more than 900 homes and businesses from flooding and has attracted a sizeable contribution from Homes England. The scheme involves raising flood walls and constructing new ones and earth embankments, . A cycling route will be provided along the south bank linking up with the existing networks at Bromford Road and Chester Road. Ongoing delays means slippage for the scheme.



Consenting Works on Ordinary Watercourses

Birmingham City Council as Lead Local Flood Authority is responsible for regulating activities on ordinary watercourses in Birmingham and legally responsible for determining s23 Land Drainage Act 1991 consents.

In 2021, fifteen applications were received, plus advising on internal works and HS2 crossings / exempt activities.



Works Funded by Flood Risk Management Revenue Budget

Restoring flood channel/culvert capacity by excavation, cutting back vegetation and removing major blockages:

- **River Cole** - Formans Road to Nethercote Gardens
- **Plants Brook** - Ebrook Road to Eachelhurst Road
- **Turves Green Brook & Tributary to Bourn Brook** - Kingswood Road to Turves Green & Arosa Drive to Beaumont Drive
- **City Wide** - Flood Asset Maintenance works to all strategic grills
- **Handsworth Wood Brook** – Oxhill Rd to Sunningdale Close
- **Inspecting strategic culvert structures.**



Works for other BCC Teams and Departments

- **Local Planning Authority:** Sustainable Drainage, LLFA Consultee role, permeability / suitability checks
- **Housing:** Fisher Close and Merrits Brook
- **Bereavement:** Handsworth Cemetery

Leisure:

- Alexander Stadium,
- Wyndley Leisure Centre
- Ward End Pool
- Geranium Close
- Tennal Lane Allotments brook
- Rose Hill
- Valley Parkway Pool
- Manor Farm Pool
- Handsworth Park Pool

Highways

- Selly Park North
- Section 38 agreements / Highway Improvement Schemes.
- Working on highway surface water problems and flooding issues
- Plants Brook – Upper Holland Rd

Reservoir Works provided for BCC Leisure Services

Reservoir Act 1975 Section 10 and 12 - Inspections City Wide.
On Site Emergency Plans for each of the 11 Large Raised Reservoirs.

Lifford Reservoir, Kings Norton – Work on site to repair erosion to crest, maintenance work to dam in preparation of Section 12 inspection.

Longmoor Reservoir, Sutton Coldfield – Repair to main scour penstock to prevent leakage. Fitting of anti vandal device to prevent unauthorised operation.

Perry Reservoir – Section 10 inspection work, CCTV Survey of pipework, replacement of inspection chamber covers and repairs

Powells Reservoir, Sutton Park – Repairs to brick and concrete spillway slabs and works to restore structural integrity.

Salford Reservoir, Aston – Penstock refurbishment to allow free operation of spindle.

Swanshurst Reservoir, Springfield – Flood study, CCTV Survey, repair work to the auxiliary spillway.

Wyndley Reservoir, Sutton Coldfield – Topographical survey of the dam, construction of a reinforced concrete apron and repairs.



Statutory Consultee Role for Planning

The statutory consultee role ensures that proposed developments and surface water drainage schemes are future-proofed in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with appropriate climate change allowances and conforms to the Council's planning policies, Birmingham Development Plan, Big City Plan, and other planning documents.

Year	Total No. of Applications	Major Planning Applications	Pre-App/General Enquiries	Discharge of Condition
2017	405	185	94	126
2018	392	140	83	169
2019	577	274	59	322
2020	613	285	32	210
2021				

Flood Risk Management Audit

- Co-ordination and monitoring arrangements established for flood management within the Directorate and across the Council as appropriate;
- Partnership working arrangements established with all relevant Risk Management Authorities and relevant external organisations;
- Arrangements for ensuring a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Birmingham has been established and is being kept up to date;
- Systems established to identify and prioritise any maintenance or improvement works required on the Council's watercourses.

No major concerns or issues were found by virtue of the audit and the team received recommendations on how to further improve the service, given the incredibly varied nature and enormous volume of our work

Summing Up

Thank-you for your time today

Are there any questions or queries?

