

Jubilee River, Black Potts weir repairs

9 October 2020

The Jubilee River

The Jubilee River is part of The Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme. It was built by the Environment Agency and completed in 2001.

The scheme protects approximately 3,200 homes from the risk of flooding.

The Jubilee River is 11.6km long and acts as a flood relief channel for the River Thames, allowing water levels to be controlled by diverting flows from the Thames during times of high flow. It is designed to appear natural with the channel varying in appearance. It provides a fantastic outdoor resource for the local community with accessible paths, bridleways and canoe portage points along its length.



View of Black Potts weir, looking upstream

Water enters the Jubilee River at Taplow near Maidenhead and then runs parallel and to the north of the natural course of the Thames, re-joining the main Thames downstream of Windsor.

Repair work

Black Potts Weir is one of five control structures along the length of the Jubilee River and is the final structure separating the tail end of the Jubilee River from the River Thames. It is a fixed crest weir, meaning that there are no mechanical components. Water naturally flows over the weir as upstream flows increase. There is a fish pass at the centre, enabling fish to move upstream. The weir forms the foundation of a railway viaduct overhead for the Windsor & Eton Riverside branch line.

A recent routine engineering dive inspection found significant erosion to the scour protection on the downstream side of the weir. We are working with our supply chain to carry out essential repairs to the asset to return the Jubilee River to full service. The structural stability of the weir has not been affected but exposure to high flows could cause damage.

We will ensure that the Jubilee River can continue to provide the flood protection it was designed for and that there is no risk to the weir structure or the railway viaduct.

The repair works will involve installing graded rockfill to reinstate the scour protection on the downstream side of the weir. This work is being carried out by the Environment Agency, using our framework contractors and in collaboration with key stakeholders including Network Rail.

A site compound will be set up in Home Park, Windsor, with access to the weir from the river (downstream side). Access to the site compound will be via King Edward VII Avenue in Windsor. We are discussing with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead vehicle movements and to ensure site deliveries are managed safely.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Timescales

Our project team is doing all that we can to accelerate the programme for the repair works. We are working to bring it back to operational duty by the end of year, with permanent work continuing into the new year.

We expect work on site to commence in early November and the site compound will be set up in the second half of October.

Continued protection from flooding

Our teams will continue to carefully monitor forecast flows and levels in the River Thames and the Jubilee River.

Currently we are not able to operate the Jubilee to divert flood flows away from the main River Thames channel due to the risks this could pose to the weir structure. As the repair work progresses it may be possible to use the Jubilee River in a reduced capacity but this will be carefully planned depending on the stage of repair works and the river conditions.

While repairs are being completed, should flooding be forecast we will use additional local flood protection measures in riverside areas of Maidenhead and Windsor and work closely to support the community. We are currently analysing our river modelling to identify those areas that may require additional protection.



Aerial view of Black Potts weir

What do I need to do?

To stay aware of the risk of flooding in your area, sign up for flood alerts and warnings. For more information visit www.gov.uk/flood or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

You can monitor local water levels and weather conditions. You can check river and sea levels in England on www.gov.uk/flood. Visit the Met Office website for local weather forecasts at www.metoffice.gov.uk.

Further information

For further information, please email enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

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