

Work on new bridge will start soon

Work on replacing the Lower Bridge in Boscastle is expected to start in the next few weeks.

Our revised application to North Cornwall District Council for planning permission was approved by the planning committee last month.

A new bridge is needed because the existing one is too small to safely pass flood flows and also because the channel of the River Valency is being widened so it can carry more floodwater.

Work on excavating the foundations will start soon about seven metres downstream of the old bridge, which will be removed in the New Year.

The new bridge will be installed in late November or early December.

The crane that will lift it into place itself weighs 75 tonnes, so temporary steel props will be used to support the river bank under the crane.

Meanwhile, good progress with the flood defence scheme continues to be made further upstream. Masonry to both sides of the car park wall is complete except for the coping stones along two-thirds of the wall. Railings are to be installed along the remaining third of the wall in the next few weeks.

Wire mattresses filled with rock are being laid by the river further up the car park to help protect the banks of the widened river channel against erosion. About a third of the steel mattresses have been installed and the rest will be completed over the coming months.

The sub-base for the upper car park will be completed next month and then the top surface will be laid. This will comprise special plastic mats inlaid with gravel for the roadways and mats pre-grown with grass to form the parking bays.

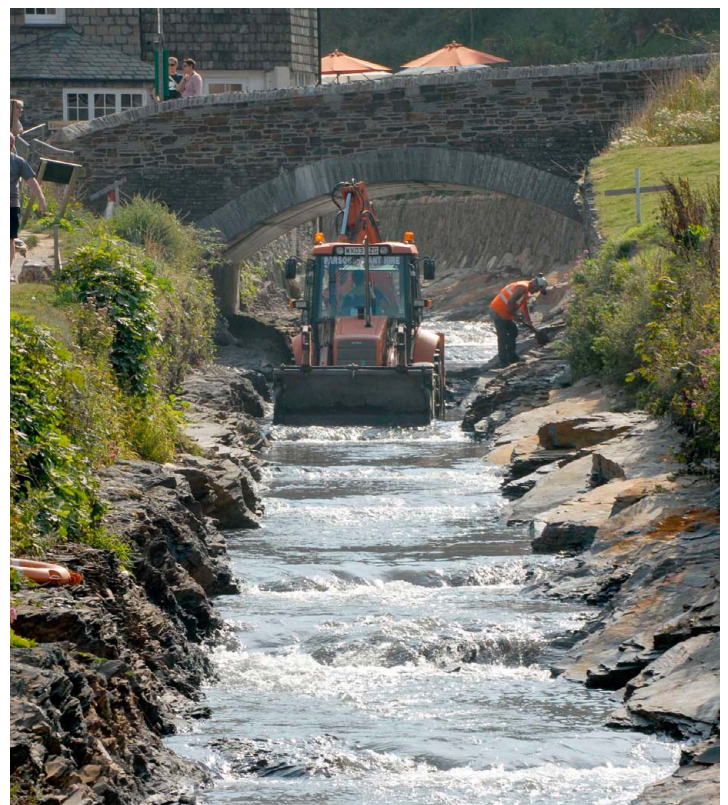
Weeks of rain over the summer held up work on excavating the river bed to enable the Valency to carry more floodwater.

'The recent dry weather has meant we have been able to have a good run at the work,' said site manager Colin Mitchell.



Above: Site manager Colin Mitchell with Stuart Lee who is clearing loose rock excavated under the main road bridge

Below: Looking upstream to the bridge where the channel is being deepened to carry more water



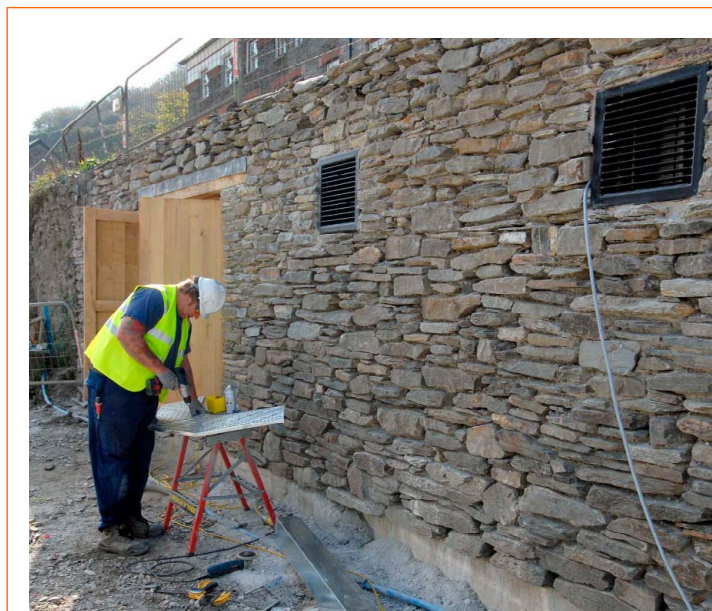
Making progress

These pictures show the good progress that is being maintained in the flood defence scheme.

Top right: Dave Trace (left) and Mark Cole at work on completing masonry along the revetment wall to the car park.

Bottom right: Andy Meakin (left), Gareth Wishart (centre) and Steve Mullane create wire mesh mattresses which are filled with rocks to help protect the banks of the widened river channel against erosion.

Below: Work on installing the wire mesh mattresses, looking upstream.



Facing completed

Stewart Gilbert is seen (left) working on South West Water's new control room on National Trust land by the harbour.

It has now been faced with local stone to blend in with its surroundings and control panels are being installed inside. Sub-contractor May Gurney have cleared their compound near the control room.

Next month a trench will be dug across the river and a duct laid in it to carry cables from the control room to sewage pumps on the north bank. Once the new sewage system is tested and working, the old sewer pipe that forms a weir across the river will be demolished.

The Boscastle flood defence scheme is being carried out by the Environment Agency working with Cornwall County Council, Forrabury and Minster Parish Council, National Trust, North Cornwall District Council and South West Water

