

Work moves into its closing stages

Eighteen months after we started work on the £4.6 million scheme to reduce flood risk to people and properties in Boscastle, the project is reaching its final stages.

Since autumn 2006, we have widened the River Valency near the car park to make room for sediment and debris to settle so that they don't obstruct the river downstream.

The car park itself – where many cars were washed away in the August 2004 flood – has been extended away from the river and the level of the main car park raised.

We have widened and lowered the bed of the river down to the Harbour so that it can carry higher flows. We have also replaced the Lower Bridge with a new bridge spanning the widened river. Oak handrails have now been installed on both sides of the bridge.

In recent days our contractor Carillion has been finishing off the river widening by digging out stones near the new bridge. An expert in river engineering will check the Valency's profile before the shape of the river channel is given a fine tune.

In front of the new reinforced concrete riverbank by the Visitor Centre at the Lower Harbour, stonemasons have been building a facing wall by reusing stone saved from the old walls. Bollards will then be installed along the bank.

The stonemasons have also been finishing off other masonry on the south bank and by the new Lower Bridge.

□ We will continue to keep residents and business owners in Boscastle up to date on progress with the flood defence scheme.

As well as making copies of this newsletter available, we will continue to hand-deliver letters telling people when and where work is taking place.

We will also keep issuing information sheets which are emailed to people by the Parish Council. They can also be picked up at the newsagents, at the post office in the upper village and in the Visitor Centre at the Lower Harbour.

We have had to remove the information boards we put up in order to complete work in the car park and Lower Harbour.



Above: Tarmac being laid on the roadway by the new Lower Bridge, which has now had oak handrails fitted

Below: Stonemasons at work on the facing wall by the Visitor Centre – timber bollards will be fitted into the galvanised steel sockets



Work programme for coming weeks

- This month should see completion of the stonemasonry by the Harbour and the surfacing of the Lower Bridge. Work along the Riverside Walk by the main road bridge should also be completed. Minor works to windows at the Riverside Hotel will be carried out.
- Our contractor Carillion is currently installing a 'stone catcher' on the upper Jordan next to Terrosewill Farm. During floods the catcher will intercept sediment before it reaches culverts downstream, reducing the risk of blockage.
- Further down the Jordan, Carillion will this month widen the river and install debris screens by the Community Centre in Dunn Street. This work will complement Cornwall County Highways' recent replacement of the culvert carrying the Jordan under Dunn Street.
- Just upstream of the car park, Carillion has been carrying out preparations for the river being diverted into its new alignment running through the braided section. This is designed to slow the river so that silt and debris is deposited instead of being washed downstream.
- The Environment Agency will be installing a gauge to measure flood flows under the main road bridge.
- In June, the site compound next to the car park will be cleared and landscaping will be carried out there. During the month any other remaining work will be completed.



Above: Newly-planted trees between the car park and the river

Below: Dave Saunders spreads stone around the new gate to the upper car park

Cafe work put back

The National Trust says that it had hoped that the Pilchard Cellar Café would be open by Easter, but due to delays in the river widening and sewage works adjacent to the shop, the work was unfortunately delayed.

Work on the former Cornish Goodies site will now begin this autumn, leaving the summer months free from disruption for visitors and other businesses. The Trust aims to have the café open for Easter 2009.

Over the next few weeks the Trust will modify a section of masonry wall at the Rocket Store next to 'Things'.



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

