

Beales Corner, Bewdley

Exercise on 16 November to test deployment of temporary barrier and community flood plan

November 2017

With winter approaching we wanted to provide you with some important reminders on preparing for flooding, and details of an Exercise on 16 November to test deployment of the temporary barriers on Beales corner, and the community flood plan.

You need to be prepared for flooding and can find information in the attached flood action guide on what you can do now to prepare, and who to contact if you experience flooding.

We are continuing with deployment of the temporary barriers on Beales Corner using a partnership approach. However, it is important to remember the risks associated with them, which are outlined in this newsletter.

Managing flood risk at Beales Corner

History of flooding

Bewdley has a long history of flooding with major events occurring in 1947, 1965, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008 and more recently in February 2014.

In 1947 the highest known river level of 5.82m was recorded at the Bewdley gauge.

However, February 2014 saw river levels of 5.05m, being the highest since the temporary barrier trial began at Bewdley in 2007.

The threshold for the barrier becoming ineffective is 5.00m. At this level water will start to spill

around the side of the barrier into Pewterers Alley.



Temporary barrier review and risks

In September 2014 our review of the temporary barriers at Beales Corner identified that there were risks associated with their continued deployment. They offer a limited standard of protection and when river levels are higher, there is always a risk that the barriers will become ineffective and properties will be flooded. Use of the temporary barriers here also carries the risk of failing and/or leaking.

The review highlighted that the preferred and most viable publicly-funded long term solution to manage flood risk for the community is property level resilience (PLR) measures. This solution is able to provide reduced flood risk for 44

properties, as opposed to only 19 properties being provided with limited benefit from the temporary barriers.

Measures to manage flood risk in Bewdley	Standard of protection
Severnside Demountable barriers	1% annual probability flood event. (Greater than a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any one year).
Beales Corner Temporary barriers (less properties protected to a lower standard than PLR)	10% annual probability flood event. (1 in 10 chance of flooding in any one year)
PLR	Varies dependent on individual door thresholds. These measures provide reduced flood risk for more properties than the temporary barriers.

Property level resilience (PLR)

As our September 2014 barrier review found that PLR was the most viable publicly-funded long term solution to manage flood risk for the community we have progressed with installation of measures alongside the plan for continued deployment of the barriers.

PLR measures have been carried out on a number of properties, with a few left to complete. Our contractors, Watertight, are working directly with residents.

For information on the progress of this work please contact Gareth Boyd at Watertight on 07764 224594 or via gareth@watertightinternational.com

Exercise 16 November 2017

On Thursday 16 November from approximately 9.00 am to 3.00 pm the Environment Agency and partners will be running an exercise on Beales Corner to test deployment of the temporary flood barriers and the local community flood plan.

Partners include Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Bewdley Town Council, Local Community Flood Group, Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent Water.

This will provide an opportunity to test our barrier deployment plan and procedures, train staff and test working arrangements with partners and the local Community Flood Group, so the barriers can be quickly and safely erected when needed during a flood with minimum disruption to residents and businesses.

Pedestrians and traffic will be unable to use this section of road and pathway between Millside Court to where it joins with Kidderminster Road, via the Stourport Road. Access to Bewdley Bridge and the town will remain fully accessible by using the Kidderminster Road. Please see the attached map for more details.

What you need to do

We can give no guarantees that the temporary barriers will be able to protect Bewdley in a major flood event, at most they can delay the onset of severe flooding. We encourage you to take steps to prepare in advance for this. More details on how you can prepare yourself can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>

Get Insurance

You can:

- Find lower-cost home insurance through [Flood Re](#) if you're in a flood-risk area.
- Get insurance advice from the [National Flood Forum](#)
- [Find a broker](#) that specialises in properties that are difficult to insure.

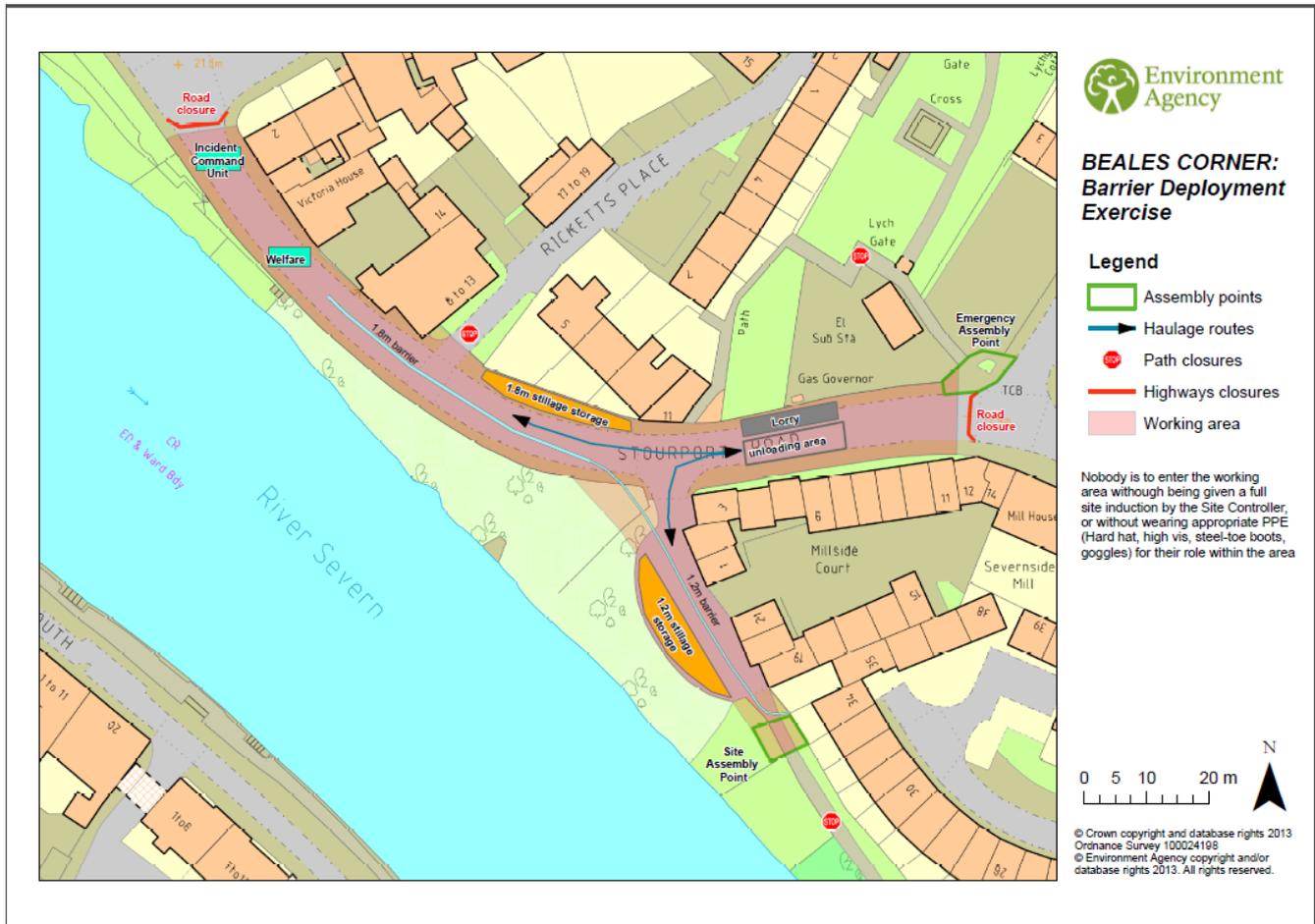
Contact

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or would like to support the community plan and become a community volunteer during a flood please contact Bewdley Town Council at townclerk@bewdleytowncouncil.org or on 01299 40015.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
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