

Advance notice of essential road closure September 2021

Improvements to The Wharfage road surface anticipated for September 2021 - 6th September to 15th October

Essential works are required to The Wharfage in order to improve resilience of the Environment Agency temporary flood barriers. This will involve a road closure expected to start from 6th September until 15th October.

Background

- In February 2020 the flooding caused some of the highest river levels ever experienced on the River Severn. This resulted in the temporary flood defence barrier to be moved by the force of the flood water.
- While the temporary flood defence barrier continued to be operational and properties were defended, the Environment Agency carried out a detailed review while considering possible improvements to be made. This included work to the road itself and additional barrier reinforcement.
- The road surface can be modified to reduce the likelihood of barrier movement. This work was due to take place earlier this year in January, but was delayed due to the impact of Storm Christoph.
- The use of additional measures was used to reinforce the temporary flood barriers earlier this year; these measures proved effective and so will continue to be deployed until the road is resurfaced.
- During the high river levels in early 2021 observations were made while the temporary flood barrier was in place that allowed the road design to be improved further. This required additional ground investigations that took place during the spring.
- The next and final phase of works will implement the additional resilience measures for the temporary barriers and improve the structure of The Wharfage.

Deployment and Evacuation Plan

The temporary defence system was originally trialled in 2004 and has been continually refined after each deployment.

While the improvement works will make the system even more resilient, the barriers are deployed on a best endeavour basis. Residents are advised to take action, even if the barriers are deployed, to reduce the impact of flooding on property.

Residents and businesses in the area should be aware of (and follow) the advice in any messages from Telford & Wrekin Council, the Environment Agency and the Emergency Services.

In relation to future barrier deployment, the teams will continue to do their utmost to maintain pedestrian access during deployment, however, it is vital for the safety of staff and those passing through that all people accessing the area follow the safety restrictions that are put in place.

Future Communications

Going forward we will work with Telford & Wrekin Council to keep you updated on progress with the works, and with associated access arrangements for residents and businesses while this is taking place.

We understand that the works will cause disruption but this is essential work and we thank you in advance for your continued patience.

Finally, if you haven't already, we recommend registering for the free Flood Warning Service offered by the Environment Agency at <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

If you have any questions please contact us at [Enquiries Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries.Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk)

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88