

Winter ready - flood defence repairs in Cornwall

We are prepared to take flood action this winter wherever it is needed.

Our Asset Performance teams have been working hard to ensure that flood defence assets have been assessed and repaired for the winter. Any flood defences and equipment damaged during last winter's flooding have either been fixed, or have robust contingency plans, such as temporary defences, in place. This update details some of the many repairs to flood defence assets in Cornwall which have taken place this year.

Crooklets, Bude: recovery project

Protection of toe wall using gabion baskets to prevent further undermining and possible collapse, causing blockage within the Crooklets Flood Alleviation scheme.



Before



After

Springfields, Horrabridge: recondition project

Repair of sections of bulging wall and toe erosion, upstream of an Environment Agency trash screen.



Before



After

Loe Bar, Porthleven: repairs to the main culvert outfall

Reducing the likelihood of blockage, allowing Loe Pool to discharge freely and preventing any backing up of water levels in the Cober that would increase the risk of flooding in Helston.



Before



After

New Mills flood storage dam, Truro

Concrete bag repair to erosion and large void behind step access, which may have caused potential compromise to the dam structure. Grass seed has also been laid.



Before



After

Camelford wall stabilisation

Repairs to cracks along the length of wall. Rebuild of bulging stone pitching and stabilisation of wall face, which had compromised the structural integrity, with platypus soil anchors, and rock netting and underpinning to the toe along the length of the wall. A fish shelf has been installed at the toe of the wall to provide compensatory resting habitat for salmonids. Ferns will be planted along the wall face to increase biodiversity.



Before



After

Working with our contractors



Part of our preparations for this winter is planning for reduced availability of our staff due to Covid-19.

Our supply chain contractors are being trained to help us maintain, operate and respond to our assets, to ensure we reduce flood risk to property.

One of our external suppliers is Cormac, pictured on a trash screen check round in Bude, who we are familiarising with our asset locations and how we operate and maintain them.

We hold contingency plans for all our strategically important assets in Cornwall, such as Wadebridge pumping station and Truro Tide Gate and for any assets currently below their required condition. We are familiarising our external suppliers with these locations, ensuring we are maintaining the same level of service to protect communities with Environment Agency flood risk assets from flooding.

Help to reduce flood risk



Flooding can happen if watercourse owners:

- Fail to keep vegetation growth under control
- Dispose of or store garden waste, domestic rubbish or similar material on the banks
- Install pipes or culverts without getting the right permit

Help share this important message with your community. Email dc.flood@environment-agency.gov.uk to request posters to place around your neighbourhood.