

Background

The Monktonmead Brook drains a catchment of approximately 10km² and flows north into the sea via an outfall at Ryde, Isle of Wight. A culvert carries flows the last 170m to the seawall and a pumping station, after which a 60m long culvert (an underground pipe) carries water to an outfall on the beach. Flows usually drain through gravity however high water levels in the Brook trigger operation of the pumps, which lift water over the seawall and into the last 60m of outfall. A tidal flap at the sea wall closes against high tides leading to tide locking.

As a result of natural tidal processes, and possibly exacerbated by the construction of Ryde Marina in 1990, sand has accumulated on the beach surrounding the end of the outfall leading to its regular burial. This sand migrates up the culvert towards the seawall restricting flow through the outfall. Despite an automatic increase in pumping, the restriction of flows causes water to back up in the Brook, leading to an increase in flood risk to Ryde.

The December 2013 to January 2014 flooding saw many properties flood from a combination of the Monktonmead Brook, the sewer network, and surface water flooding.

Flooding in Ryde from Monktonmead Brook

Extensive flooding from Monktonmead Brook (centre) to Simeon Street Recreation Ground (right), and the Railway Line (left) on 9th November, 2010.

- 14 properties flooded
- Flood water reached the threshold of an additional 60 properties
- Flood water of 1m depth on Simeon Street Recreation Ground
- Rail tunnel flooded and tracks submerged.

Flooding to a similar extent was recorded 24th December, 2013.



What are the Environment Agency doing?

Since the appointment of consultants Mott MacDonald, the Environment Agency have been able to demonstrate effective options to manage the flood risk and work through the business case approval process seeking the required contributions to unlock central government funding. Detailed design has been undertaken and planning approval sought and granted.

Our business case and detailed design works have demonstrated that restoring a blockage-free discharge for the Brook and upstream attenuation of river flood water would restore a standard of protection in Ryde of 1 in 100 years, or a 1% chance of river flooding in any given year. This standard of protection represents few or no properties at risk of flooding during an event of the order experienced during the winter of 2013-14. This scheme will **better protect over 300 properties** from flooding. The cost of the scheme is approximately £5m with over £1m contributions from both the Isle of Wight Council and the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal committee.

We are fully aware that the news back in September 2017 that the scheme had been delayed by a full year was extremely upsetting for so many people at flood risk. Since then the project team have been working extremely hard with our partners and the local community to bring the start date for the works forward.

Due to contractual constraints we have only now been able to publically confirm that the scheme is to commence on the **1st of March 2018**. The reason for bringing this date forward is to make sure we avoid constraints for working on the beach - allowing summer events to take place and for the beach to be open for the peak summer period. We also needed to comply with a number of environmental constraints, such as overwintering birds, but still achieve the delivery of the flood risk scheme before next winter.

What are the works?

The scheme is split into two areas of work.

Phase 1

Commencing on the 1st of March our contractors will be constructing a new outfall pipe from the sea wall in front of the existing pump station into Ryde marina across Ryde sands. This will achieve a clear outfall for the river flows. These works will be completed in July 2018. Please note the section of beach from the existing outfall to Ryde Marina constitutes the works site and is therefore out of bounds to the public, this includes the eastern harbour arm.

The children's play area adjacent to the public toilets will be the compound for the works however this will be fully restored upon completion of our works. In the meantime please use the play area at the southern end of the Simeon recreation round which opens in spring.

Detailed plans can be viewed at the harbour masters office, located on the entrance to the eastern arm of Ryde marina.

Phase 2

The second piece of work is the construction of a flood wall around the Simeon recreation ground, Marymead close and the river boundary of the BT depot. These works are planned to commence in June 2018 and planned to be completed by October 2018. The detailed design for this section of the works still needs to be completed and this will confirm the exact alignment, height and finish of the wall. We propose to share this information at a public open event to be held at the Simeon Arms - date TBC.

Detailed plans still to be produced.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Keeping you informed

If you would like more information about the Monktonmead Brook Outfall Improvement Scheme you can come and meet us at the next Ryde Flood Action Group meeting in the Simeon Arms on the 13th March 2018 at 5pm.

You can also contact the Environment Agency project team using the details below.

Email:

monktonmead@environment-agency.gov.uk

Call us on 03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri, 8am to 6pm)

Other useful numbers:

Incident hotline: 0800 807 060 (24 hours)

Floodline: 0345 988 1188 / 0845 988 1188 (24 hours)

Find out about call charges at www.gov.uk/callcharges

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