

The Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme

October 2024

Project overview

The Environment Agency is working with Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (previously part of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership) to reduce flood risk to over 1,400 homes and businesses in Tonbridge, Hildenborough and downstream communities.

The Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme has 2 aspects: increasing the capacity of the Leigh Flood Storage Area (FSA) and constructing a new embankment to protect homes in Hildenborough.

The most significant risk of flooding in Hildenborough comes from the River Medway backing up the Hawden Stream.

To reduce this, the Environment Agency has designed a scheme which reduces flood risk to as many homes with as little impact on the local community as possible.

The scheme will include a new embankment, pumping station and penstock structure on the Hawden Stream. It is designed to work with the Leigh flood storage area expansion and will further reduce flood risk to Hildenborough from the River Medway.

Hildenborough embankment scheme programme

Autumn 2024	Compound set up Vegetation clearance Construct the stream crossing for the piling works Install the sheet pile wall
Autumn / winter 2024	Install the new penstock chamber in Hawden Stream
Winter / spring 2025	Install the new pumping station
Spring / summer 2025	Construct the embankment Construct the access road to the pumping station
Autumn 2025	Install the new pumps and electrical equipment
Autumn / winter 2025	Test the pumping station

Works compound

Our contractor VolkerStevin has set up their site compound.

Our site working hours will be 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. We do not expect to be working at the weekends, although if Saturday working is required, we will provide advance notice.

We will use air mesh screening on the Heras fencing around the compound and site area to minimise any disruption to our residents (see photo).



Hawden Lane road works

Before we start work on the penstock chamber, we need to do some work to strengthen the bridge over the culvert on Hawden Lane. Works will include cutting out the existing road surface and laying a new tarmac road surface. We are likely to need to restrict access to Hawden Lane during these works. Once the timing of these works is confirmed we will speak directly to the affected residents regarding access arrangements.

Piling works

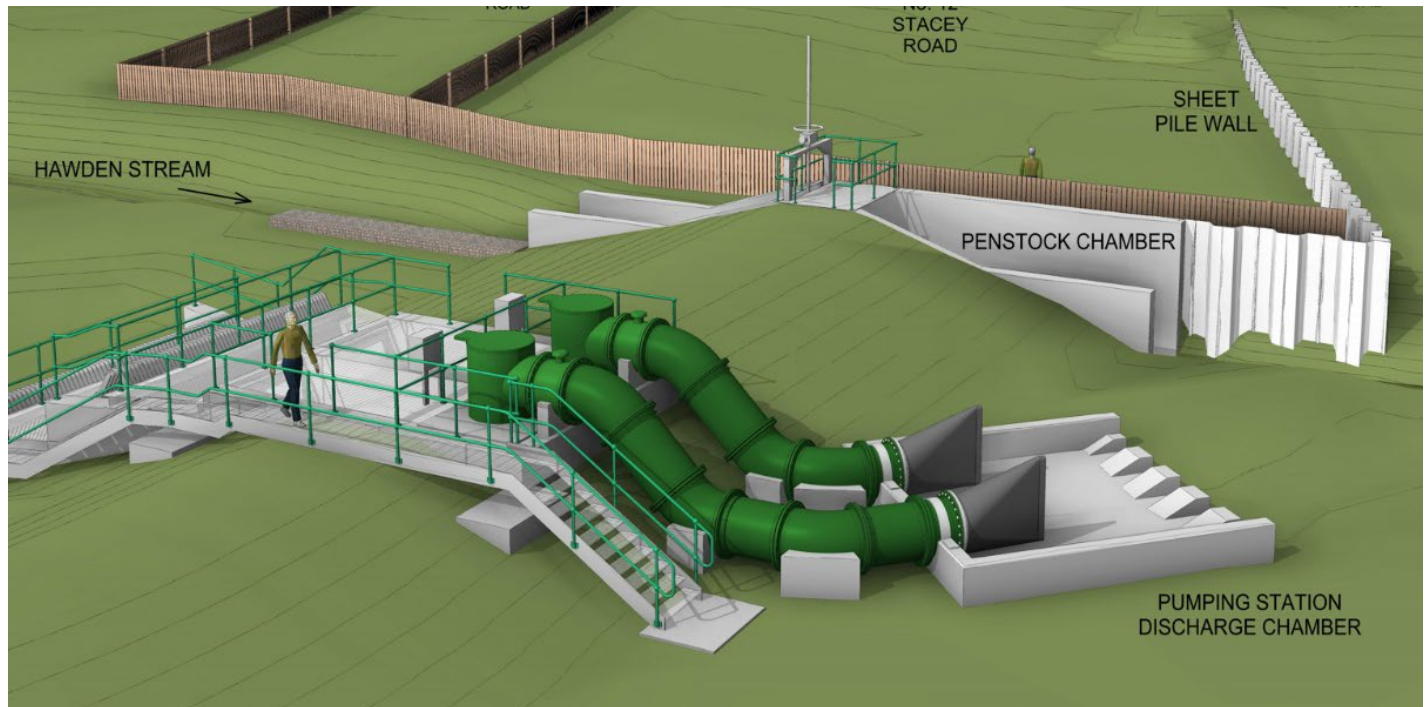
In October, we are carrying out the piling works as shown in the image below. To do this work we will create a temporary crossing for the plant and machinery.

Penstock chamber

As shown in the image below, the penstock chamber will be constructed within the stream. To do this we will need to divert the stream and install a coffer dam to create a dry area for working. The structure has a concrete base and sides which will keep the working area free from any rising groundwater.

Once complete the structure will sit approximately 1.5m above ground level and will be 16m long. The work to construct the penstock chamber will take approximately 4 months to complete, with electrical and mechanical work to be carried out through 2025.

Hildenborough embankment scheme visualisation



Traffic management

We have a detailed traffic management plan and all suppliers will be made aware of the approved route to the site (see map overleaf). Traffic Marshals will manage the deliveries and ensure that drivers use the approved route.

Most deliveries will be scheduled at off peak times between 9am and 3pm. When we are expecting larger-than-normal deliveries (such as machinery and plant) we will advise residents along the delivery route in advance.

A 10mph speed limit will be in place on Hawden Lane and Stacey Road for site traffic. Please be patient if you are following one of our delivery vehicles.

To keep the roads around the site clean, all lorries will use the wheel wash facility on leaving site and a road sweeper will be in operation as and when required.

As Southern Water are still on site, the area that we have designated for staff and site parking is not available. Once Southern Water have left site, all vehicles will park on-site, and Traffic Marshals will manage vehicle movements.

In the meantime, staff and site vehicles will try to avoid parking on Stacey Road and Hawden Lane.

Winter weather plan

We plan to continue our works over the winter months. Wet weather should only affect our works if the Hawden Stream comes out of bank. Should this happen, we have plans in place to demobilise until it is safe to resume works.

How to get in touch or find out more

If you'd like to find out more about how the Hildenborough embankment scheme will work, take a look at our new YouTube animation: [Hildenborough embankment scheme \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hildenborough_embankment_scheme)

For more information you can contact the project team by email: lehesenquiries@volkerstevin.co.uk

You can join our electronic distribution list by emailing: LEHES@environment-agency.gov.uk



Above: Hildenborough embankment Traffic Management Plan

The No Entry and No Parking indicators apply only to delivery and site vehicles. Residents and the public can use the roads as usual.