

Lewisham and Catford flood alleviation scheme

January 2017

In February 2017 we will start the ground investigation work for the Lewisham and Catford flood alleviation scheme. This briefing describes how we will do this and the next steps.

Ground investigation works

Throughout February we will be carrying out ground investigation works in areas where we plan to build the new flood defences. This will help us understand the existing conditions around Beckenham Place Park, the Honor Oak Stream and several other locations along the river Ravensbourne. It will also highlight any risks so we can better plan the work.

The samples will tell us whether the soil and rock structure is suitable for building upon. We will also assess if some of the material can be reused in the construction of the flood embankments.

These works will take approximately 3 weeks. All materials, grasses and existing surfaces will be replaced and restored to their original condition after a brief period of settlement.

Techniques

We will start with a radar survey which will identify any existing pipes and cables in the ground. We can then plan our work to prevent us from disrupting them. This is a non-intrusive survey where our staff will walk over the investigation sites carrying radar equipment.



After this, we will take soil samples at various locations which will involve the use of some machinery. These activities will include:

Cable percussive boreholes – We take a core sample using a cable-hung weight which hammers a hollow tube into the ground.

Window samples and dynamic probing – Motorised machinery and a hydraulic ram drives a hollow tube into the ground to collect samples.

Machine-dug trial pit and trenches – We dig shallow pits or trenches to allow us to examine materials near the surface.

Hand dug trial pits and concrete-work – Machinery can't access all locations, so in some cases we may need to dig pits by hand. If there is concrete in the ground, we may need to use pneumatic drills to break the concrete so we can access the material underneath.



Next steps

We plan to finish the detailed designs by the late summer and will discuss these proposals with the public. We plan to submit our planning application to Lewisham Council in the autumn. If this is successful, construction will start in spring / summer 2018.

Find out more

Find out more about the scheme on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lewisham-and-catford-flood-alleviation-scheme/lewisham-and-catford-flood-alleviation-scheme>

Locations of ground investigation works

Downstream sites:

Brookmill Park

Armoury Road

Cornmill Gardens

Silver Road

Molesworth Street

St Mary's Church

Honor Oak

Curness Street

University Hospital Lewisham

Albacore Crescent

Malyons Road

Beckenham Place Park

We will also be carrying out investigations in Beckenham Place Park.

