

Proposed Rivelin flood storage areas

Under new proposals by Sheffield City Council, two locations along the lower Rivelin Valley are being considered for providing temporary flood storage to help reduce flood risk to people, properties and businesses downstream in Hillsborough and through the city centre. Two new embankments across the River Rivelin would hold back water for a short period during significant storm events. With a combined potential temporary storage volume of 330,000 m³ (roughly equivalent to 130 Olympic swimming pools), these are predicted to have the potential to reduce downstream flood levels in the River Loxley at Bradfield Road (Hillsborough) by up to 1.5 m (c. 5 ft) and contribute to a reduction in flood levels on the River Don.

The proposal is for one embankment to be located just upstream of the children's playground near the café, and the other in the upper half of the valley, at Swallow Wheel weir. The embankments could be up to 11.3 m (37 ft) high (above the level of the river-bed), with steep banks (gradient possibly 1 in 3) that would most likely be grass-covered. They could extend some 75 m (around 250 ft) along the river, with a large culvert through the middle. The embankments would be permanent, but only if there was a forecast of heavy rain with risk of deep flooding to properties etc. downstream would the sluice be brought into operation and flooding upstream occur.

The Rivelin scheme forms part of the overall strategy for flood alleviation in the Upper Don (including the Rivelin and Loxley rivers) and Sheaf/Porter catchments, which includes building flood storage structures upstream on the rivers as well as some hard flood defences (walls etc) further down in order to prevent/reduce flooding episodes. Further work, including engineering and environmental surveys, is required before decisions can be reached on which options will go forward. It is therefore not yet certain whether one or other or both of the Rivelin embankments will be adopted but Sheffield City Council has opened a consultation period (see below) to gather local opinions, so now is the time to have your say on the proposals. The timescale is for the whole flood alleviation project to be completed within 5 years, so building the structures could start in 2019.

Further details of all the proposed flood-protection schemes across Sheffield can be seen via:

<http://www.floodprotectionssheffield.com/pages/programme-overview>

Details of the Rivelin scheme are summarised below from:

<http://www.floodprotectionssheffield.com/pages/rivelin-flood-storage-areas>

Sheffield City Council "Option considerations" for the embankments are as follows:

- The embankments would be designed to minimise the impact on the local landscape.
- Some diversions would be required to footpaths but SCC would ensure access is maintained during and after construction, and improve access where possible.
- SCC would minimise impacts on Ancient Woodland habitats and trees and identify opportunities for tree planting, habitat creation and improving the environment.
- SCC would carefully consider the impact of the work on nearby historic buildings and features.
- SCC would carefully consider and minimise the short and long term impacts on allotments.

Have your say!

Please take a look at the proposals and let us have your views. And even more importantly, please also let Sheffield City Council have your views, either in person at one of the drop-in consultation meetings noted below or online via the questionnaire at <http://www.floodprotectionssheffield.com/pages/get-involved>. This initial consultation period extends until 31 October 2016, after which RVCG will be involved in further consultation through the normal planning permission procedures.

Thursday 8th September, 11am – 8pm, Sheffield United Football Club, The Board Room, Bramall Lane;

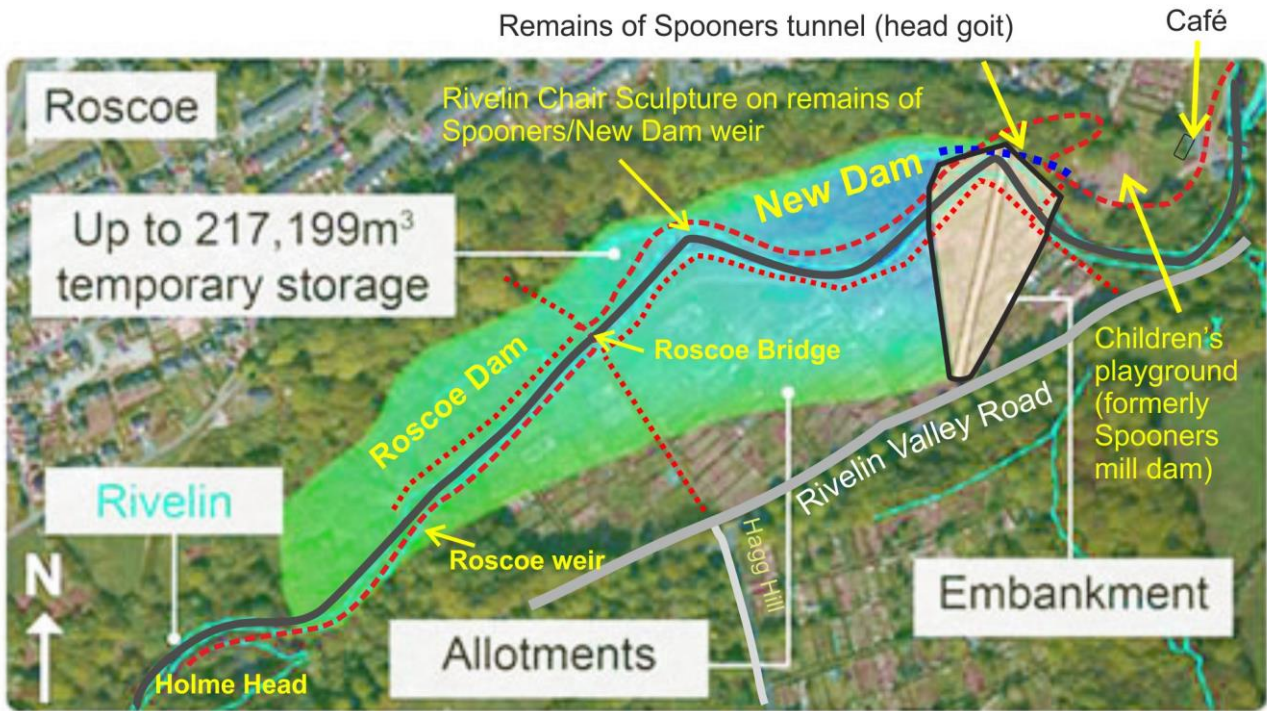
Wednesday 14th September, 11am – 8pm, Millennium Hall, 520 Ecclesall Rd, Sheffield, S11 8PY;

Wednesday 21st September, 11am – 8pm, Millhouses Methodist Church, Millhouses Ln, Sheffield S7 2HA;

Thursday 28th September, 11am – 6.30pm, Oughtibridge Chapel Hall, Church St, Oughtibridge, Sheffield S35.

NEW DAM—ROSCOE DAM PROPOSED FLOOD STORAGE AREA

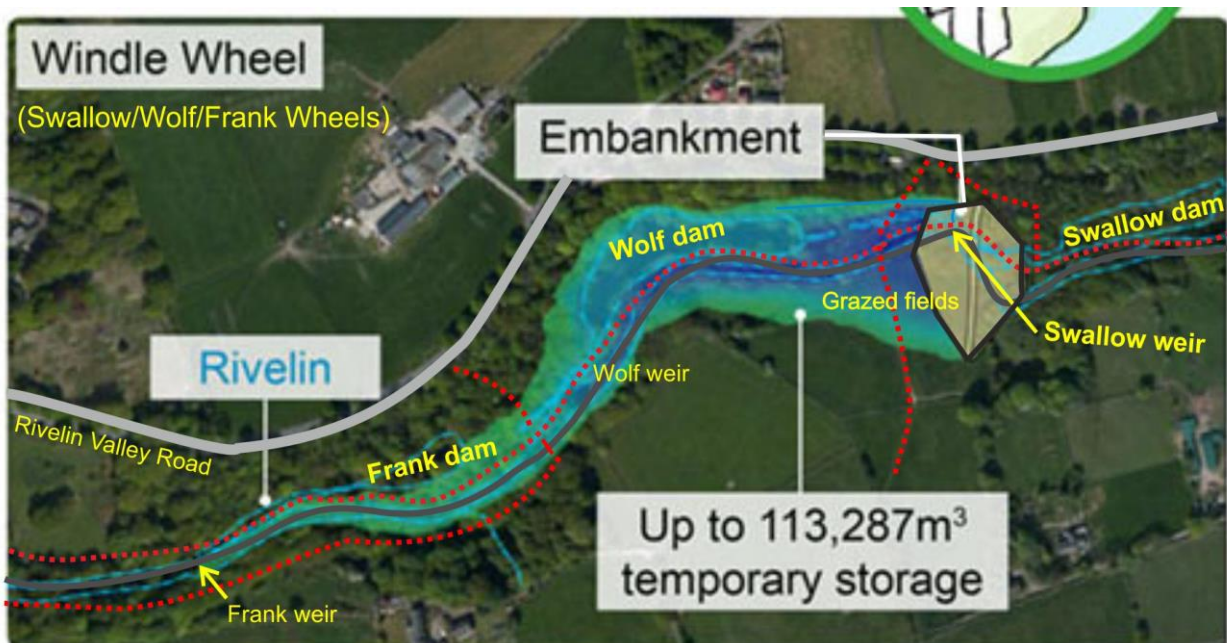
The proposed embankment at New Dam is just upstream of the children’s playground. It could be 11.2 m tall with a 4 m wide crest and reach around 150 m (about 500 ft) from the north river bank across allotments to Rivelin Valley Road. It could also destroy parts of New Dam and the tunnel built in the 1630’s that used to take water from the river and New Dam into Spooners mill dam. The potential area of flooding upstream of the embankment extends as far as Holme Head Wheel, including the historical/structural remains of New Dam and Roscoe Wheel/mill dam and their weirs, and a large number of allotments. Rivelin Chair Sculpture and Roscoe Bridge (early 19th century, Grade II listed) would also be flooded.



Main footpaths shown by red dotted lines

SWALLOW—WOLF—FRANK PROPOSED FLOOD STORAGE AREA

The proposed embankment at the Swallow weir could be 11.3 m tall with a 4 m wide crest and reach around 85 m (about 280 ft) from the north river bank across into the grazed field on the south side of the river. It would destroy the Swallow weir, part of the Swallow head goit (both dating from about 1690) and probably part of the Wolf tail goit (1720s). The potential area of flooding upstream of the embankment extends across the whole of Wolf Wheel/mill dam and weir, and past Frank Wheel/mill dam, approximately as far as the Frank weir.



Main footpaths shown by red dotted lines