

UPPER GARNOCK FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Project Update September 2021

Since commencement of the Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme construction works in 2020, substantial progress has been made.

Area 1 – The Upper Storage Area, Kilbirnie

Works continue apace at the Upper Storage Area. The Culvert Structure is complete. In the coming weeks, we will divert the River Garnock in through the Culvert, whilst continuing with the construction of the dam itself.



Aerial View of Upper Storage Area



Some of the plant in operation



Excavation of riverbed for the Culvert



Base slab poured for the outlet structure



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Culvert wall concrete pours



East Outer wall for Inlet Structure and Culver A complete



Aerial view of progress

The Naming

Local residents were given the opportunity to name the new Upper Storage Area. Further to a poll via the Facebook page for the Garnock Valley Virtual Community Centre, the results were as follows:

Robin Dam 62 votes **Garnock Dam** 44 votes **Ladyland Dam** 10 votes

The most popular choice with the winning vote tally is tied to the Robin pool where generations of local people met whilst enjoying swimming, fishing and walks along the river.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, Cabinet Minister for Green New Deal and Sustainability, said: “A big thanks to everyone who took part in the online poll – we look forward to the new Robin Dam completing next year, giving residents and businesses peace of mind and security in the years to come”.



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Adrian Pollock, Contracts Manager at McLaughlin & Harvey said: “We are keen to leave a lasting legacy within the local area when the Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme is completed. Having the local community choose the name for the newly constructed dam really reflects that objective”.

Area 2 – Paddockholm Industrial Estate, Kilbirnie

The difference between November 2020 and August 2021 can clearly be seen in the pictures below. This area is 99% complete, awaiting quality inspection and sign-off, with only some landscaping work remaining in this area.



Installing the first section of flood wall



First section of Flood wall complete



Aerial Footage as works underway



Aerial footage of wall progressing



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Flood wall installed



Works completed pending seeding

Area 3 – Powgreen Burn, Glengarnock

Work to construct a formal flood defence wall adjacent to the Powgreen Burn and the Glendale Arms has only just commenced, with temporary works and piling in place. The river will need diverted to allow the construction of the flood wall to properly commence.



Vegetation Clearance



Temporary Works and Piling underway



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Area 4 – Mill Park, Dalry

Piling works as part of the first phase of construction of the new flood protection wall are complete at Dalry. In the coming weeks, the team will look to install the reinforced steel (commonly referred to as Rebar). It is formed around and tied to the sheet piles already inserted. Shuttering will then be applied to allow the pouring of both the concrete bases and wall itself, prior to finishing with coping stones.

To the rear of Mill Park, the temporary access has been created at Tofts and sheet piling is underway.



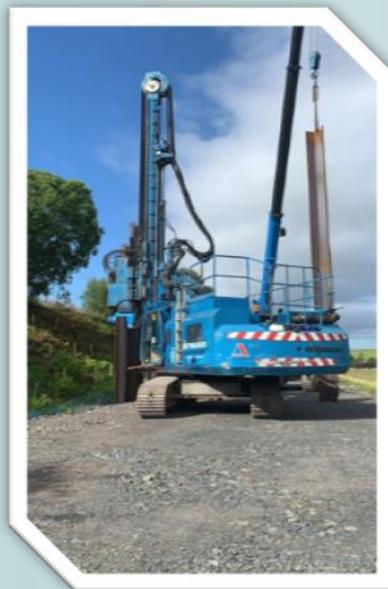
Site of Tofts embankment



Temporary Access being create



1. Delivering the piles



2. Pile lift at Tofts



3. Protecting Beith Road using mats for larger vehicles



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Installing sheet piles on Beith Road
closest to Mill Park residences



Taking delivery of the first stonework
materials at Beith Road



Sheet piles installed at Tofts



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Traffic Management

Works have once again commenced with fervour to construct the flood wall at Mill Park. A737 Beith Road remains closed but the traffic management arrangements have been altered to grant vehicle access/egress between Tofts Road and Courthill Street. Residents and businesses in the area have been advised that this is a temporary measure: one that the team will maintain as long as possible. Depending on works progression, there may be a need to extend the A737 Beith Road closure.

Temporary Footway Closure – there will be a need to close the footway between the Glengarnock Railway Station and Glendale Arms Pub. Dates are yet to be confirmed but will be well publicised ahead of the closure. Diversion routes will be signposted and will be in place for the duration of the works. This closure is required to enable the replacement of a section of the existing flood wall between the Glendale Arms and the Railway Bridge: works include lifting the existing footpath and removing the existing flood wall.



Lasting Legacy

McLaughlin & Harvey support North Ayrshire Council's Community Wealth Building Objectives including investing in local communities and enhancing local wellbeing.

Two of our subcontractors, McKee Ltd and Moore Concrete, have sponsored two recycled benches that have been provided by Radio City's Garnock Valley Trails project; which aims to promote a positive physical and mental health.

Café Solace, a community cafe that helps recovering addicts to get back into work by gaining transferable skills through

volunteering at the café, provided the refreshments on the day of the event.

A third sector organisation, Eadha Enterprises, has also been approved to add value to the landscaping when the works are completed at Kilbirnie town centre with the planting of native trees, bushes and flowers.

"The legacy project at Kilbirnie as part of the Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme will encourage biodiversity and promote the local community's physical and mental health" said Adrian Pollock, Contracts Manager at McLaughlin & Harvey.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability said: *"The Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme is not just a project to deliver flood protection - it is a project that puts our Community Wealth Building approach into action by providing opportunities for local people, groups and businesses to benefit from the multi-million pound investment. We are therefore delighted to see this latest step by McLaughlin & Harvey to involve our communities in the creation of a lasting legacy for the project"*.



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Robert Hobbs of Radio City Association, said: *“We are delighted to contribute to the Upper Garnock Flood Prevention Scheme, as an organisation we know all too well the cost of flooding after the Radio City building itself was flooded in 2008. We also recognise the commitment to Community Wealth Building that McLaughlin & Harvey have demonstrated during the project in their co-operation with us to develop our plans for the ‘Electric Valley’ in addition to providing local people and businesses with new opportunities for work.”*

Peter Livingstone, CEO of Eadha Enterprise, also commented, *“Eadha Enterprises are delighted to have the enthusiastic support of McLaughlin & Harvey to enable us to work with local communities in North Ayrshire to enhance the biodiversity value of their construction sites.”*

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and resources.

Community Liaison

The Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme could not be delivered without the help, support, patience and understanding of the local community. We appreciate that it is not always convenient or pleasant to have construction works close to homes and businesses; for roads to close or traffic diverted; to see large construction vehicles and heavy plant moving around the town; and/or generally have the daily norm of life interrupted. With this in mind, we offer our very grateful thanks to you.



Our Community Liaison Officer, Yvonne Gilfillan holds personal experience as a home owner with major infrastructure works undertaken in her garden. She knows first-hand how frustrating it can be when things are happening without any prior communication from a construction contractor. Her mission is to ensure that no-one directly affected by project works feels isolated or not without information. Having just recently joined the team delivering the Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme, Yvonne has been out meeting local residents and business owners and delivered an update letter to the residents closest to works at Area 4 (Mill Park). In addition to these quarterly Project Updates, she is committed to providing regular location-specific information to those directly affected by the works.

If you see Yvonne out and about, please feel free to approach and speak to her. She will happily try to help with any questions or concerns, and she also welcomes suggestions on how to improve your experience throughout the construction phase.

Alternatively, you can address your questions or any concerns via email to uppergarnock.fps@mclh.co.uk or by phone to 07557 588 307.

Project Information

For project information, please feel free to visit the project website (QR code below) or via <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-safety/flooding/upper-garnock-fps.aspx>

