

The Road Ahead

DELIVERING
THE SOUTHERN
LINK ROAD

Keeping our neighbours in the know

Following recent concerns regarding the potential impact of Southern Link Road construction on flooding in the Middlebeck area of Newark, we wanted to provide an update on the work taking place and the consideration given to the issue of flooding in the area.

Background and existing situation:

- The Southern Link Road (SLR) project is currently under construction in Newark. Breheny, our contractor, has implemented temporary measures to minimize the impact of construction on surrounding properties during heavy rainfall and potential flooding events.
- The development of Middlebeck and the SLR lies partly within the Environment Agency Flood Zone 3 and borders a functional floodplain (in action). Flooding in this area is therefore a pre-existing issue that can occur even without construction activity. Recent heavy rainfall, particularly during Storms Babet, Ciaran, Debi, Elin, Fergus, Gerrit and Henk, has resulted in the Devon and Trent rivers breaching their banks, leading to widespread flooding in the region, including around Middlebeck, Farndon and Hawton Village.
- Water management remains the responsibility of the local authorities, Internal Drainage Board, and Environment Agency, who are statutory consultees on planning applications.
- The design for Middlebeck and its water management is approved by the aforementioned bodies and will ensure that the development does not have a negative impact on the wider community and neighbours over and above the situation before the development commenced.
- We have a strong partnership with NSDC and NCC as part of the development of Middlebeck and our long term presence as a stakeholder in the town. We continue to work closely with them to help manage messaging around flooding and be a good neighbour in the area.

Our proactive measures:

- **Pre-construction flood risk assessments** - Since early 2015, our contractor WSP has been working with the Environment Agency, NSDC, NCC and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board to facilitate the development of Middlebeck and the Southern Link Road within the floodplain. The first outline planning application fully acknowledged that the site partially sits within Flood Zone 3 with risk of flooding and that the development would involve strategic ground raising to enable flood displacement to run onto off-site Flood Compensation Areas (FCAs). The six FCAs identified are designed to store displaced water from Middlebeck and accommodate water over-spill from the Devon Catchment. As part of this application, we conducted numerous comprehensive flood risk assessments with the Environment Agency to identify, quantify and mitigate the flood risk.



Our proactive measures (cont.):

- **Designed drainage system** - The development of Middlebeck incorporates a strategically designed drainage system with attenuation ponds, flow control hydro brakes, and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water runoff. Where the development platform levels are complete run off flows to the ponds situated to the South of the site and is only discharged into the Beck via the attenuation ponds.
- **Temporary measures** - As a temporary measure to prevent run off from Hawton Road, Breheny installed a combination of temporary drainage pipes and open drainage channels to divert water into the already completed on-site ponds. In addition, three of six Flood Compensation Areas have been created.
- **Continuous monitoring and adaptation** - We are actively monitoring the situation through on-site observations, regular drone surveys and keeping close communication with the community, using in-person meetings, WhatsApp groups and letter drops.

Addressing specific concerns:

- **Flood plain location** - We are satisfied that our construction activities do not increase the likelihood of flooding but the location of the site partially within a designated flood zone makes the area susceptible to flooding during extreme weather events like Storm Babet. Flooding in this area is a pre-existing issue that can occur even without construction activity.
- **Blocking of the River Devon** - Our contractors have confirmed that they have not placed any stone/soil that would block the Devon River. We have regular drone footage showing the river is free flowing and free of obstructions.
- **Material bunds** - We have not placed any stone/soil that would block flood channels. The earthworks people will have observed are part of the approved development platform and road construction. The material placed to the north of the Middlebeck is to form a road embankment.
- **Observations on site** - We carry out regular and frequent site observations from ground level and using drones. Recently water levels have remained high since Storm Babet due to the persistent heavy rainfall from the five subsequent storms through November, December and January.

We are committed to transparency and have shared all relevant information with the public, including project plans and flood risk assessments. While flooding remains a concern in Middlebeck due to its location within a designated floodplain, we want to assure you that we are taking all necessary steps to mitigate the risk and ensure the project is completed responsibly and minimizing any impact on the surrounding environment.

Further information on local flooding

Nottinghamshire County Council - www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/flooding

Newark & Sherwood District Council - www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/breaking-news-check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

