

Calstock Press Release

Work to reduce the risk of flooding to the community of Calstock is nearing completion. This means that there is a new more resilient defence protecting homes and community assets.

We have also created a habitat area with pools and creeks (seen best from the aerial photograph overleaf) which will support biodiversity, absorb carbon, off-set some of the impacts of sea level rise and provide a new amenity asset for the community.

Whilst our main construction works are nearly complete, there is still more to do. We plan to monitor and in places top-up the new banks as they consolidate. When our Partners (Tamar Community Trust) have constructed the footbridge, we will return for two weeks to breach the former flood embankment; this is currently planned for October 2021. This will enable the habitat area to develop into a tidally-influenced reed bed, providing the benefits highlighted above whilst also enabling the continuation of the existing riverside foot path.

There are other benefits to the works: Calstock Parish Council are to take ownership of the former flood bank securing its future as a footpath for the community. The Environment Agency has agreed to lease land outside the habitat area to Tamar Community Trust so that this can be managed for local events and for the benefit of the community and the environment. First however, we plan to create a pond which can be used for 'pond dipping' by Calstock Primary School.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the community and our partners Tamar Community Trust, Tamar AONB and Calstock Parish Council for their continuing support. We believe that we are leaving a lasting legacy that we can all be proud of.

For media enquiries Mon-Friday 9am-5pm please call 03708 506 506. After this time, please call the Duty Communications Officer on 0800 028 2484

Contact us on Communications_DC@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or visit our web page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/calstock-flood-defence-improvement-scheme/calstock-flood-defence-improvement-scheme>



Flood embankments and habitat channels under construction. This area will become a reedbed habitat following the breach of the former flood embankment.



Reed bed habitat created upstream of Calstock

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