

River Avon: Pulteney and Twerton Gate Options

Bath River Avon Options Study

Flood risk from the River Avon is a major constraint for Bath today and in the future when considering climate change. The River Avon corridor forms an important focal point for the future urban regeneration of Bath and is fundamental to the city's prosperity.

Following the floods in the 1960's, the Bath Flood Alleviation Scheme was constructed to improve conveyance through the city. The scheme included Pulteney's horseshoe weir and radial gate that automatically adapts to flows to maintain upstream levels whilst allowing flood flows through. At the downstream end of the scheme the Twerton gates span across the width of the Avon impounding a constant water level under low flow conditions but raising during floods.

Twerton and Pulteney sluice gates are at least 40 years old and require significant (and increasing) investment to keep them reliably operating. The Environment Agency and Bath & North East Somerset Council are keen to evaluate the options available to reduce the operational risks and costs whilst maintaining the current levels of flood defence and to improve the amenity and landscape value of both sites.

A study is underway that involves an outline options appraisal to determine the long term sustainable solution for both Pulteney and Twerton Gates. This appraisal is to include all environmental, flood risk and amenity constraints and opportunities. An introductory workshop with stakeholders was held on 15 October 2014 to seek initial views and merits of each option which then contributed to a report identifying preferred options.

A drop in surgery was held on 11 June 2015 to update local organisations and interest groups on progress so far and to invite comments on these more detailed options. A final report will be produced that will inform future development and potential sources of funding. Once we have clarified potentially viable options (both in terms of flood risk and funding) then wider public consultation will happen and will include directly affected landowners and businesses.