

Worthing Flood Risk Management Investigation



September 2023

Our progress so far:

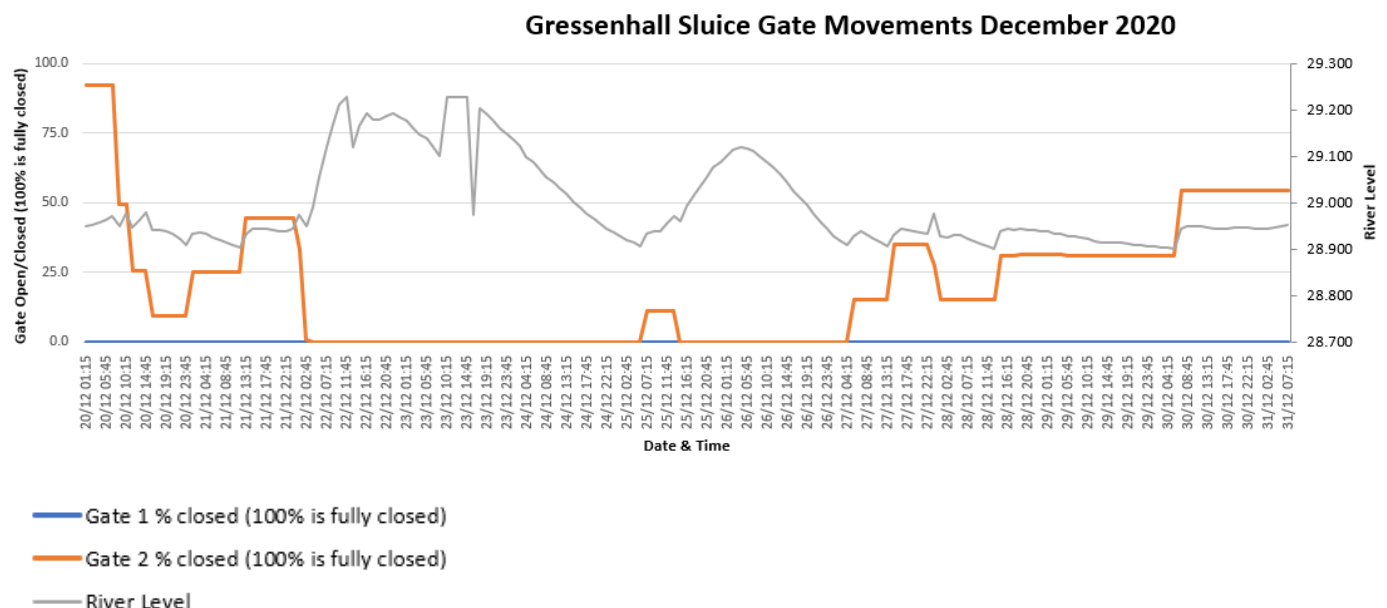
This is an update following our site meeting in May 2023. Following the review and discussion of the shortlisted options with the community, the residents showed a preference for storing additional flood water in the field upstream of Worthing (Option 17) rather than the economically preferred option of upsizing culverts along the drain in the village.

We have investigated this option but determined the storage of water would result in a significant volume of water being retained, with any failure having the potential to cause widespread damage to the village. In view of this we have had further conversations with the landowner, who is supportive of the proposed track raising as an option to progress (Option 4), which will modify the flood pathways and reduce the frequency of flood water impacting the village and is expected to give some immediate short-term benefits.

We have also carried out Property Flood Resilience Surveys of the two additional properties that flooded internally in December 2020, that had not previously been requested to be surveyed.

Gressenhall Sluice:

As requested by the residents, we have looked into the operation of the sluices at Gressenhall during the December 2020 flooding. In the trend below, gate 1 in blue is shown to be fully open and was open for the majority of the period from December to January. At the time of highest flows and level, gate 2 in orange also fully opened. It can be seen that despite both gates being fully open the level continued to rise. This is as a result of flow in the channel being much greater than the capacity of the structure during the flood event.



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

The gates are tilting gates and are set to drive for 5 seconds, wait for 180 seconds until either the level has changed sufficiently, or another gate movement is required. The gates start to open when the river level is at or above 28.98m AODN and will continue to open until the level drops below 28.96m AODN, where they will hold their current position. The gates start to close at or below 28.9m AODN and will continue to close until the level rises to 28.92m AODN.

These incremental changes ensure there's no. The volumes seen on the 24th and 25th December greatly exceeded the structure, so the structure movements are unlikely to have influenced the flooding at Worthing, approximately 4km downstream, with both gates being open from the evening of the 23rd December.



Image: Gressenhall Sluices, showing the two tilting gates.

Our Next Steps:

We are progressing work to develop a design for the track raising in consultation with the landowner and establishing what environmental surveys will be required to support the work and any permitting required. We will also be continuing work on potentially installing passive Property Flood Resilience measures for the 8 properties that flooded in December 2020.

Maintaining Current Protection:

Any existing Property Flood Resilience measures for your properties should be inspected and tested on a regular basis to ensure they will function correctly during a flood event.

Details on servicing and maintaining Property Flood Resilience measures can be found on the Blue Pages website – www.bluepages.org.uk.

Contact details:

For any questions or comments contact:

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