



North Tyneside Council

Regeneration and Economic Development,
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Riverside Embankment Walkway

28th November 2023

Dear Resident,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the ongoing works to the Riverside Embankment Walkway.

I am sure you can appreciate this is a big, complex project. We always anticipate some challenges when we start projects of this scale and following the first stage of piling, it was clear we needed to change our approach.

Unfortunately, the adjustments required to progress with the piling works have caused significant delays to the delivery programme. As a result, the expected completion of the Riverside Embankment Walkway project is now December 2024. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this delay may cause.

The final phase of piling works has now commenced and is due to finish by the end of January 2024. This will require further use of a large crane which will be positioned on Liddell Street/ Bell Street.

There will be a two-week break for the festive period, between December 22nd and January 5th. Liddell Street/ Bell Street will reopen for the same two weeks over Christmas while the works are paused.

Due to the nature of these works, it is expected that there will be further noise and vibration disruption, but we expect this will be less intense than during our previous piling works as the remaining sheet piling is far shallower and requires less force.

Following the stabilisation of the slope along Liddell Street/ Bell Street, excavation work began in late October and is progressing well at the top of the embankment. The excavation work will run concurrently with the final piling work and is

programmed to finish in March 2024. Works beyond March 2024 are the installation of the earth retaining system and formation of the ramped path.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you of the steps we are taking to minimise disruption as much as possible:

1. Our construction partner Willmott Dixon monitors noise and vibration data on a daily basis during construction activities at several locations adjacent to the site, and will continue to ensure the works are carried out in line with national guidance.

2. Due to the open nature of the site, it is difficult to reduce the construction noise/vibration levels on site, but we have applied additional methods to reduce the impact on residents and businesses, including:

- Fixing acoustic blankets (which help reduce noise from machinery) to the hoardings at the location of piling activities,
- Switching to a method called pre-auguring of the sheet piles to reduce the duration of both vibrations and noise, and
- Using a smaller drop hammer where possible to further reduce noise and vibrations.

3. External building surveys have been undertaken by Willmott Dixon on the condition of nearby properties before the sheet piling works began and will continue to be updated on a weekly basis.

4. As set out in the planning permission for the embankment, we will continue to operate between the hours of 8am-6pm, Monday to Friday, to reduce the impact on residents and businesses as much as possible. During the dark winter nights work may finish considerably earlier than 6pm.

The Embankment Walkway is a hugely complex project and has presented different challenges along the way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding and apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works cause going forward.

North Tyneside Council is committed to delivering a new high-quality step-free walkway, aimed at improving access where accessibility can be difficult between the town centre and the Fish Quay.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk, call us on (0191) 643 4830, or write to us at the

address listed at the top of this letter. We endeavour to respond to all queries as quickly as possible.

We plan to contact all businesses directly affected by these works in the coming weeks. If you are a business and wish to get in touch with us before then, please use the methods above.

We produce regular e-newsletters to report on progress of the Ambition for North Shields and Fish Quay projects. If you would like to subscribe, please email AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk and put 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

For more information, please visit www.northtyneside.gov.uk and search 'North Shields Embankment Walkway' or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmbitionNS

Yours faithfully,



John Sparkes

Director of Regeneration and Economic Development

About the North Shields Embankment Walkway:

The walkway will feature green open spaces with different route options to suit every need, including step-free routes and steps with handrails, as well as a direct route from top to bottom via steps.

The scheme has been designed with environmental sustainability and safety at its heart and will become an attraction in its own right, with benefits for health and wellbeing.

About Willmott Dixon:

Willmott Dixon is a privately-owned contracting and interior fit-out group. Founded in 1852, we are dedicated to leaving a positive legacy in our communities and environment and in 2018, were one of only six companies to receive a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the promoting opportunity through social mobility category.

We create value for customers, stakeholders and communities by working in a sustainable and responsible way to shape the built environment and make a positive impact to society's well-being.

The scope and scale of what we do reaches all areas of society, with over 90% of the population never more than a mile from a Willmott Dixon project.

Considerate Constructors Scheme:

Willmott Dixon are a founding Partner of the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), participating in the scheme since its establishment in 1997. The scheme has influenced the way we design our strategy of work, accounting for our successful CCS scores on site. All Willmott Dixon sites are registered with the CCS and, as a partner working to the higher code of conduct, we are committed to the highest standards of work.

**Contact Willmott
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