

Portreath Flood Resilience Scheme

27th March 2026

March 2026 Update

Flood Response Update – Winter 2026

Over the winter of 2026, the Portreath flood protection system has been thoroughly tested during several periods of heavy rainfall. Environment Agency response teams attended the Portreath Stream on more than 30 occasions to monitor conditions and ensure the system continued to operate effectively to protect the local community.

During this time, the tunnel capacity high-level alarm was triggered on nine occasions, indicating exceptionally high flows. Images from the tunnel webcam during a significant rainfall event on 27th January 2026 show the tunnel operating at full capacity and performing as designed during extreme conditions. [Portreath Tunnel webcam \(External link\)](#)

These events have provided valuable real-world data and assurance that the existing system continues to play an important role in managing flood risk at Portreath.

Tunnel entrance during high flows



Tunnel inlet at capacity during high flows



Tunnel entrance during normal flows



Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Discovery and Follow-Up

Following the discovery of a suspected unexploded ordnance (UXO) item in the Portreath Stream on 3rd January 2026, works in the immediate area were paused as a precaution. Since then, a detailed physical UXO survey has been completed across the channel.

This survey helps to identify any potential explosive materials so that any higher-risk items can be safely removed and dealt with by specialists. Completing this work significantly reduces the likelihood of similar items being encountered in the future and allows investigation and survey activities to continue safely.

Safety remains our highest priority, and this approach demonstrates the robust procedures in place to protect both site teams and the wider community.



Planned Activities – April and Early May 2026

1 April – Tree Survey

A one-day site walkover will be carried out by the Environment Agency, supported by AtkinsRéalis ecology and landscape specialists. This survey will inform design and environmental considerations.

7–13 April – Ground Investigation Works

Ground investigation activities that were paused following the UXO discovery will now resume, following completion of the UXO survey. These works will be undertaken safely and in line with agreed procedures. Residents will be contacted directly if access is required.

13 April – 5 May – Surface Water Drainage Surveys

Surface water drainage surveys will be carried out to improve our understanding of how water moves through the area. This information will support the ongoing management and future design of the flood defence scheme. Residents will be notified in advance if access is needed.

20–24 April – Push/Pull Testing

Push/pull testing will take place within the channel. The results will help inform the development of “soft engineering” solutions, such as bank stabilisation and soil nailing, as part of the scheme design. Access only required within the channel.

For any further enquiries please continue to use the contact details below using the reference: Portreath Flood Alleviation Scheme

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