

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT MARCH 2026

I've received the following information from a Design Manager in BBLP with regard to the river at Covenhope.

We are preparing to submit the Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) application and are currently developing the design drawings. The proposed works are likely to include installing rock armour along the external side of the bend.

We will also need to appoint an ecologist to review the design and advise on any required surveys. The ecological work can follow once the FRAP application has been submitted.

Once a scheme has been agreed with the Environment Agency, we will proceed to procure the works through the framework, hopefully for delivery later this year.

I hope that this will resolve the situation.

The UK Digital Switchover

Landline telephone services in the UK are switching to a fully-digital network. This means phone calls will be made over the internet (instead of analogue landlines). This is what's known as the digital switchover.

The switchover is happening because analogue telephone lines are becoming more difficult and expensive to maintain. The UK needs a modern digital system that can handle communications via mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices.

The digital switchover is planned to be completed by January 2027.

How will it affect me; what do I need to do?

For most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward:

- If you already have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router, rather than the socket on the wall.
- If you need to upgrade your phone system, your provider may need to arrange for a telephone engineer to come to your home to install a new system.
- If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as an alarm and digital / tele-healthcare system (including [Technology Enabled Care \(TEC\)](#)), your alarm or healthcare system provider might need to upgrade your alarm device to make sure it's compatible. If you're unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will still work on a digital phone line.

More information and support

Your telecoms provider (eg Virgin Media, O2 or BT) will contact you ahead of the switchover to let you know what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. You do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly.

If have any concerns or issues regarding the digital switchover please do not hesitate to contact me Cllr Peter Stoddard. Herefordshire Council Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and Herefordshire Digital Champion: peter.stoddart@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you are aware of any empty properties which have been empty for some time please do not hesitate to let me know as we are doing our best to trace owners and ascertain why the property is empty when it could be if necessary brought back into good repair and used for housing.