

# Welcome to the River Graveney flood alleviation scheme

We are working with Croydon and Lambeth Councils to explore options for a flood alleviation scheme in Graveney. The scheme aims to reduce flood risk along the River Graveney and Norbury Brook.

We are developing the Graveney Flood Alleviation Scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses and infrastructure close to the River Graveney. Flood risk modelling has identified more than 700 properties at risk of flooding in the area. This scheme aims to reduce this risk along the River Graveney and Norbury Brook in Norbury, where 340 homes are at risk.

We have considered the options that we took forward from longlist to shortlist. As part of this process we considered a range of issues including:

- heritage
- recreation
- landscape
- your feedback.

We will seek to minimise environmental impacts and maximise opportunities for environmental enhancements. We have looked to combine options where the evidence has suggested that benefits will be increased and costs reduced. If a scheme goes ahead, we will aim to complete it by autumn 2022.

## The options

The flood alleviation scheme options we proposed at shortlist stage were designed to manage the risk of flooding to homes and businesses from the River Graveney and Norbury Brook in Norbury and Thornton Heath. The options that were considered are:

- Flood storage area in Norbury Park and restoration of a natural river channel
- Flood storage area in Thornton Heath Recreation Ground
- Combined storage at Norbury Park and Thornton Heath Recreation Ground



We are working with Croydon Council, who have identified Norbury Park as one of six parks for future regeneration. Together we're ensuring that our flood alleviation proposals fit with their regeneration plans. Alongside Croydon Council, we are also working with Lambeth Council to further refine our understanding of scheme benefits. We're also working with Thames Water to promote sustainable drainage schemes to reduce surface water run-off.

Following feedback, and our work with both councils, we have chosen our preferred option:

- Flood storage area in Norbury Park and restoration of a natural river channel

We have finalised our Outline Business Case (OBC) for review. In this OBC document, we have set out the pros and cons of our preferred option. The OBC is also important for making our case for funding. We will not know for sure if any scheme will go ahead until we have secured all the funding required.

## Your feedback

We remain committed to updating you on our progress, showing you our preferred option and getting your feedback

We are interested in your local knowledge of any issues we may not be aware of, and any concerns or comments you have about the scheme. Please get in touch if you have any comments or feedback.

To find out more about the scheme, please email Andy Bishop at [PSO.SELondonandNKent@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PSO.SELondonandNKent@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call him on 020 8474 6660 or write to him at Environment Agency, c/o Andy Bishop, Orchard House, Endeavour Park, London Road, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5SH

## Both Parks

| Description   | Pros   | Cons   |
|---|--|--|
| Do nothing to prevent flooding.                           | This is our theoretical baseline for measuring other options.                      |  |
| Do the minimum – continue with existing maintenance work. | No change to current activities which includes trash screen and culvert clearance. | Flood risk will gradually get worse with predicted climate change. |

## Norbury Park – preferred option

| Opt. | Description  | Pros   | Cons   |
|------|--|--|--|
| A    | <p>Creation of a more natural looking river, and storage of flood water in the park using grass embankments and walls.</p> <p>What will happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of the current concreted river, providing a natural looking river running through the park.</li> <li>The old culvert and channel along the north of the park will be filled in.</li> <li>Where existing land isn't high enough, new grass covered embankments will be created along the north of the park with a maximum height of 2m</li> <li>A new brick-clad floodwall along the footpath on the western perimeter will be built, also with a maximum height of 2m.</li> <li>There is an estimated 20% chance of water being stored here each year. This water will usually drain within 1 day.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of a more natural looking river.</li> <li>Greater biodiversity.</li> <li>Environmental features in the park, such as the new river and associated landscaping works.</li> <li>Reduced risk of flooding to properties downstream of Norbury Park</li> <li>Provides a 1.3% annual chance* standard of protection to approximately 170 homes.</li> <li>Negligible construction impact to the allotments.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disruption to park users during construction.</li> <li>Open spaces will be broken up due to the new river channel.</li> <li>Additional maintenance for new structures such as walls and bridges.</li> </ul> |

\* A 1.3% storm has a 1.3% chance of happening each and every year. This equates to an event with an approximate return period of around 75 years.

