

Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme

September 2023 update

We are pleased to announce that the multi-million pound flood scheme in Hexham is complete.

The £6.5 million Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme will provide better protection from the devastating impact of flooding for up to 90 commercial properties and homes at Hexham's key industrial estates. With completion of the scheme, Tyne Mills and Bridge End industrial estates will be better protected up to the level of the Storm Desmond event in 2015.

The Rivers Tyne and Skinnersburn have a long history of flooding, with properties on the estates suffering considerable damage and disruption during Storm Desmond, the impact of which highlighted the need for long term measures to protect against the increasing risks.

Background

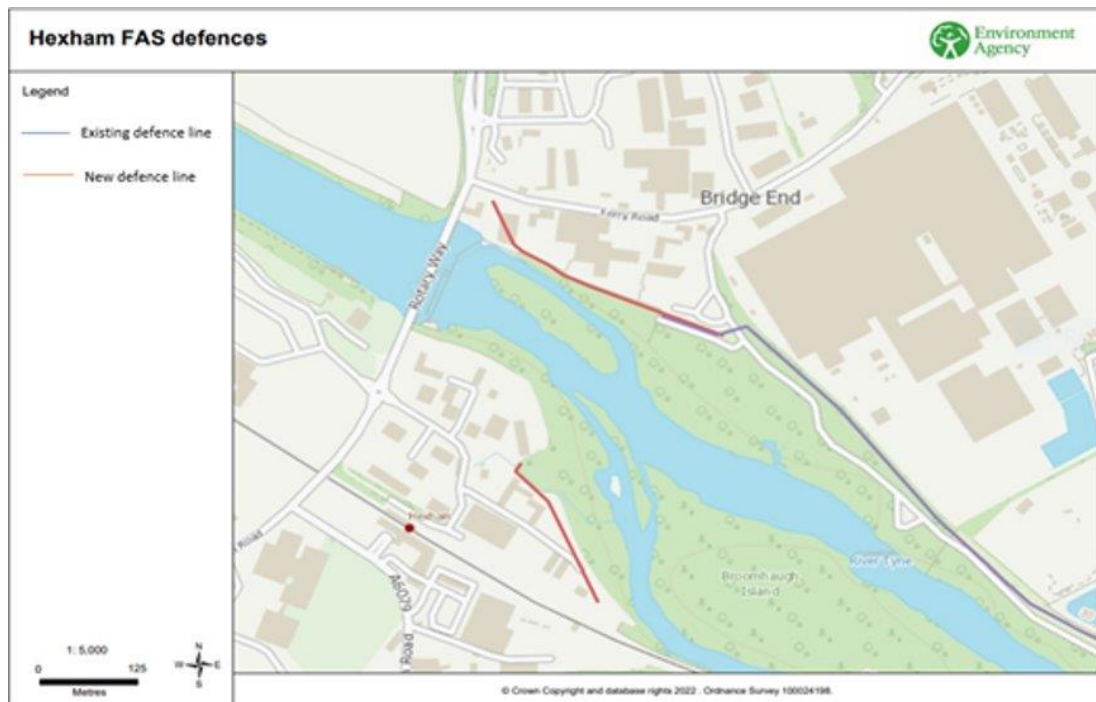
The Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme received funding in 2021 as part of the Government's £5.2 billion investment to better protect 336,000 properties across England by 2027, in addition to contributions from Northumberland County Council. The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding with approximately 400m of flood defences, including grass embankments on the north bank at Bridge End and 300m of defences on the south bank.

There is a new structure installed across the Skinnersburn which will prevent the River Tyne backing up when levels are high. The improvement works to the north bank include a new flood wall and embankment.

Hexham is a popular tourist destination in Northumberland with visitors able to observe salmon leaping at the masonry arch bridge, which dates back to 1793. The scheme will help to protect one of the town's most important commercial areas, protecting the places people work and supporting the wider local economy.

The Hexham scheme is also an important step in Environment Agency's wider investment in flood protection measures for the North East. These defences will bring peace of mind to everybody living and working in the area.

Design and delivery of the scheme



Scheme overview plan

North bank (Bridge End)

- On the north bank (Bridge End), 370 metres of new flood defence has been constructed from the existing flood embankment behind Egger UK Ltd to the former Reiver Sports site, starting as embankment then becoming a wall where it crosses the site and ties into high ground in the northwest corner.
- Along with our partners BAM Nuttall and Arup with Tarmac, we are trialling ultra-low carbon concrete for several flood alleviation schemes across the country. Hexham FAS is the first scheme to use this concrete in the North East.
- As part of the construction process, we have been able to trial this new concrete in the fabrication on two panels of the flood wall through the ex-Reiver Sports site. The initial results look good, and we hope to be able to use similar technology on other defences across the country to help reduce our carbon footprint.
- We are considering several options for the future use of the ex-Reiver Sports site and this is being progressed as a separate project.



North bank flood wall and embankment

South bank (Tyne Mills)

- On the south bank (Tyne Mills), 300 metres of new flood wall was constructed from east of the Northumbrian Water Peth Head Pumping Station and along the edge of the Northumberland County Council yard.
- A new structure has been constructed across the Skinnersburn, which contains the outlet pipe for the Skinnersburn and a high-level overflow. Non return valves have been installed to stop the River Tyne backing up when levels are high. An embankment next to the outlet ties into the new flood wall and high ground on the north. The outlet has been designed to account for high flows in the Skinnersburn.



South bank defences

Flood Resilience

The Environment Agency's North East Flood Resilience Team continues to engage with Hexham to improve the resilience to the potential risk of flooding. If you wish to sign up to the free Flood Warning Service and improve your resilience to the possible impacts of flooding, please visit: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings. Or for further advice, please contact: engagement_northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk

Information on Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme

Details of the scheme and previous newsletters can be found on our website

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/north-east/hexham-flood-alleviation-scheme>.

We are always happy to answer any questions that you may have. Please contact us via hexhamfas@environment-agency.gov.uk.