

Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme

March 2023 update

Introduction

The flood alleviation scheme at Hexham aims to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses on the Tyne Mills and Bridge End industrial estates and will protect the properties up to the level of the Storm Desmond event in 2015.

The details of the scheme and previous newsletters can be found on our website [Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Design and delivery of the scheme – progress update

Works are progressing well, and we anticipate that the scheme will be completed by summer 2023.

North bank (Bridge End)

We looked at many different options to reduce flood risk, and the most technically feasible and economically viable option to increase flood protection for the area on the north bank, was to demolish the Reiver Sports building and replace this with a flood wall and embankment.

We purchased the former Reiver Sports site, started demolition in November 2022 and have now completed construction of the full length of flood wall and embankments at Bridge End.

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 one to be given the green light in the North East.

As part of the construction process, we have been able to trial this new concrete in the fabrication of the flood wall. 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.



North bank flood wall and embankment

South bank (Tyne Mills)

The flood defence structure across the Skinnersburn contains the outlet pipe for the Skinnersburn and a high-level overflow, with non-return valves installed to stop the River Tyne backing up when levels are high. Construction of the embankment next to the outlet and the remaining section of flood wall are now complete. A small section of fencing will soon be installed which will complete the works on the south bank.



South bank defences

Flood Resilience

The EA Flood Resilience Team continues to engage with Hexham to improve the resilience to the potential risk of flooding, updating the Town's Community Flood Plan to include vulnerable areas as well as hosting a stand at the recent Net Zero Event in Hexham Abbey to make people aware of the impacts of climate change. If you wish to sign up to the free Flood Warning Service and improve your resilience to the possible impacts of flooding please visit - [Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or for further advice, please contact: engagement_northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Next steps and information

We are considering several options for the future use of the site at Reiver Sports, and we will continue to keep you updated through our newsletters and our website.

We are always happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Please contact our Project Team if you have any questions about Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme, by emailing: hexhamfas@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you would prefer to speak to us by telephone, please contact Amanda McKeivitt on 0208 4746410.