

Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme

July 2022 update

Introduction

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

The scheme defences are a combination of flood walls and grass embankments along the bank tops of the River Tyne and within the Skinnersburn.

On the south bank (Tyne Mills), the defence will run for 300m from east of the Northumbrian Water Peth Head Pumping Station and along the edge of the Northumberland County Council yard, crossing the Skinnersburn and tying into high ground.

On the north bank (Bridge End), the defence will run for 370m from the existing flood embankment behind Egger UK Ltd to the former Reiver Sports site, where it crosses the site and ties into high ground in the northwest corner.

Design and delivery of the scheme – progress update

We commenced construction of the flood defence at Tyne Mills after Christmas and the wall is almost complete with the final finishes still required once we have constructed the embankment across the Skinnersburn. We are currently progressing the enabling work for this embankment and construction will take until early 2023.

At Bridge End, we are continuing to carry out preparation works in advance of construction and are due to start excavations for the flood wall on 18 July.

As part of the scheme, we intend to demolish the building on the former Reiver Sports site. We have applied for approval from the local authority and are currently in consultation with them. A notice is advertised on site and once approval is obtained; the demolition should take two months. The construction of the flood defences on site at Reiver will then follow, taking approximately two to three months until December 2022.

Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme - Completion timescales 2022

We expect to complete the Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme by spring 2023.

Funding and contributions from businesses

We are in discussions with several organisations and businesses on the estate about making a contribution towards the scheme, to ensure its progression. If you are willing and could contribute towards the scheme, then please contact our Project Team, using the contact details below.

Next steps and information

We will keep you updated on construction progress over the coming months through our newsletters and our website also provides further information:

<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 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

Gravel extraction enquiries

We have received several enquiries regarding the plans by a local company, for a gravel extraction site behind the flood embankment, at Anickgrange Haugh. This proposal is entirely independent of the Environment Agency's Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme

Any decision about the gravel extraction site will be determined by the local planning authority i.e. Northumberland County Council. The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee on planning matters.