

Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme

July 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme newsletter. This newsletter will form one of the ways that we will keep you updated on our Flood Alleviation works in Yarm, as the project develops.

Continuation of Works – Flood Gates

Construction on the Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme continues with **Gates 29, 30, 31 and 32** passing their water test. Some small works are still required around these gates as part of the reinstatement, and to allow the safe reinstatement we may need to close the footpath through **Gate 30** for short durations.



Figure 1. Gate 30 installed and awaiting brickwork cladding replacement.



Figure 2. Gate 31 following installation. With preparation ongoing for the water test. Also seen are the temporary Flood barriers installed to protect Yarm when the old flood gate was removed.



Figure 3. Gate 31 Installed and reinstatement completed.

Our Contractor has progressed works on the public Flood **Gate 23** near the Yarm Road Bridge, and following some small design changes the gate has been installed and tested, with the reinstatement ongoing.

Works to upgrade Flood **Gate 19 and 24** have commenced and will continue through to the **end of July 2024**. Works to **Flood Gates 20 to 22** west of Yarm Road Bridge have also commenced and will be completed in **early August**. For safety reasons sections of True Lovers Walk Footpath will remain closed throughout this period, with signage in place highlighting the restricted areas.

In **Late July** work will commence on the West Side of Yarm at **Gates 1, 3 and 4**. From August sections of True Lovers Walk will be closed off for a longer period of time, to allow the construction and installation of the New flood Gates to continue in a safe manner.

Works on the **West Side of Yarm** around True Lovers Walk will commence **Late July 2024**, and will mean that access along some sections of True Lovers Walk will be restricted for a longer period of time.

Please note that all dates provided are our best estimate at this moment in time, and may change, especially if we experience poor weather and the flood gates need to be operated.

We have spoken directly with all landowners and occupants who will be impacted by the replacement of this next phase of gates. We will continue to engage with landowners and stakeholders about the timing of future phases of works.

Properties which have works or an access route near to them, will be or have been contacted by our 3rd party surveying company, Brown Rural. Brown Rural be offering an internal and external survey of your property if it has been identified as a requirement.

Rights of Way

In order to deliver the flood gate upgrades and safe working platforms to the East of Yarm as part of the Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme, BAM Nuttall on behalf of the Environment Agency will need to temporarily close a large section of True Lovers Walk from late **July 2024 to November 2024**.

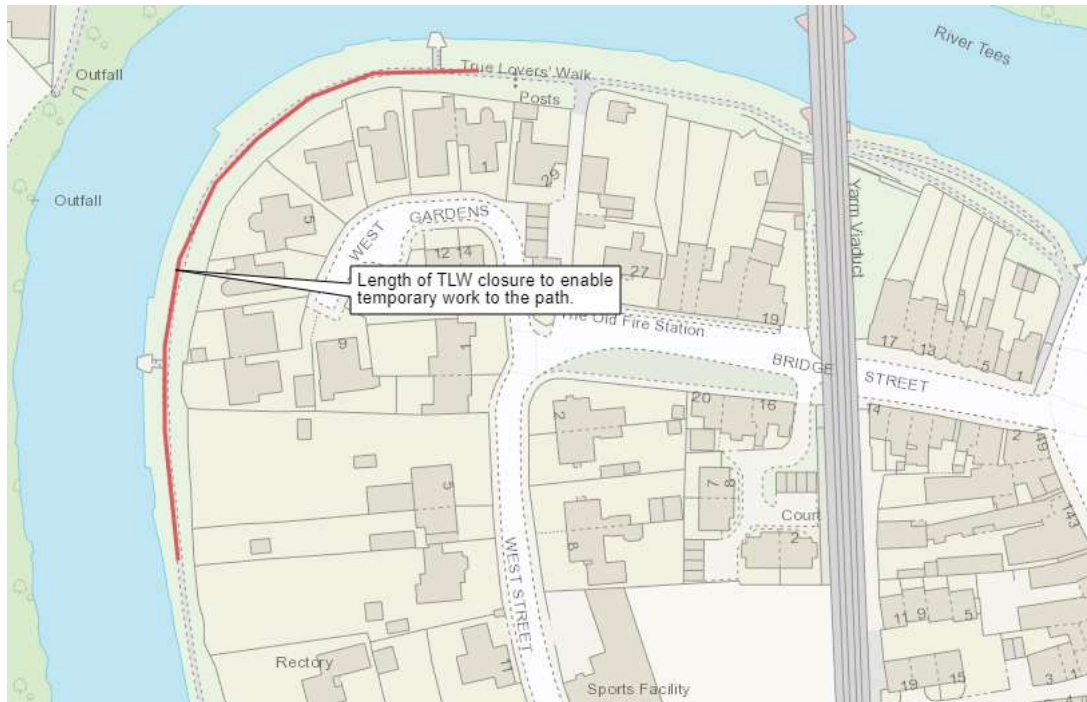


Figure 5. Extent of proposed Temporary Access Widening.

This closure is necessary to facilitate temporary work to the footpath. Upon completion of the work, the area will be fully re-instated. We apologise for any inconvenience our activities may cause and thank you in advance for your patience and appreciate your cooperation

Environmental Enhancements

The Environment Agency funded Environmental Enhancements on the River Tees has now been completed by our river restoration partners, the Tees River Trust.

The environmental enhancement proposals are natural, will create habitat, improve ecology and will rehabilitate around 50m of riverbank, increasing the resilience of sections of bank along the True Lovers Walk. We should start to see the coir matting (pictured below) green up over the coming weeks.



Figure 6&7. Environmental Enhancements - Installation of coir to protect the bank surface or bank toe.



Figure 8&9. Environmental Enhancements - installation of willow spiling, enhancement of reed beds

Social Value



In an engaging initiative to inspire the next generation of engineers, the project team working on the Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme delivered a workshop, specially designed for a variety of young people. The team partnered with **Conyers School** to deliver a session to 24 students who have opted to study Engineering in their GCSEs or A-Levels.



As part of a BAM strategic goal of working with 'hard to reach' young people, the Social Sustainability team worked with the **Witherslack group**, who support young people with additional learning support needs and young people in care in their Hartwell facility on Yarm Road. Delivering an engaging workshop to highlight the opportunities within the sector.

Work Experience Week:

As a result of excellent enthusiasm and engagement during the workshops delivered at Conyers School, the BAM project team offered a 1-week work placement to a Year 12 Student studying Engineering.

Matthew spent the week exploring a number of different roles within the live project team and participated in a number of work tasks alongside multiple mentors. Matthew gained experience in the roles of Civil Engineers, Quantity Surveying and Social Sustainability.

The one-week placement provided Matthew with a comprehensive insight into the field of Civil Engineering.



It enabled him to connect his theoretical knowledge from his studies to practical applications and understand the importance of environmental considerations in construction projects, giving him invaluable experiences that will aid his future career in engineering.



Finding out more information

If you would like more information or have a specific question, please check the Frequently Asked Questions web page via the QR code or link below, or if you have any other questions please get in touch with us via EA-YarmFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

You can also visit our web page to keep up to date with the latest developments via the following web address or QR code

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/north-east/yarm-floodgates>



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