

Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme

March 2023 Newsletter

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

Recent works

Our contractors have continued to carry out various investigative works to inform the designs of the new flood gates.

Once the information from the investigations and surveys has been processed, the final flood gate designs will be completed allowing the new flood gates to then be fabricated. Fabrication of the flood gates can be a long process; therefore we will update you all on our timescales as soon as we have a detailed programme covering delivery and installation.

To allow our contractors to work efficiently during this investigative phase, a temporary compound is being used on the corner of Bentley Wynd. The same location will be used as the compound for the main construction works, with our planning application for this compound having now been approved by the Local Planning Authority. The compound for the main construction works will be temporary and will be fully dismantled once the works have been completed.

During the construction of this project, some disruption in Yarm will occur. However, we will endeavour to keep this disruption to a minimum and notify everyone of upcoming works, access requirements and durations. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Figure 1 – Site investigation works to check the sheet piles underneath the flood wall. This has been re-instated.



Figure 2 – Investigation of the re-inforcement within the flood wall. This has been re-instated

Update on the project:

Planning Application:

A Pre-Planning application has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for the flood gate alterations in their entirety, which covers the proposed works to flood gates that are near to any historic buildings and structures, such as the Yarm Bridge. These Pre-Planning Applications have allowed for early communications with the Local Planning Authority, giving

them notification of the proposed works. Discussions to date with the Local Planning Authority have indicated that the works will fall under 'General Permitted Development'.

Operational access improvements:

Site investigations are being used to develop concept designs for the access improvements along the west side of Yarm to make accessing, maintaining, and operating the flood gates safer for our staff.

A Pre-Planning application has been submitted and early-stage designs are being produced to share with the Local Planning Authority, landowners and key stakeholders for comment and discussion.

Flood Gate Designs:

Our consultants continue to develop the designs for each individual flood gate location. Once the designs have been finalised, the new gates will be put into manufacture, allowing the delivery and installation programme to be developed. This installation programme will be discussed and agreed with all landowners prior to commencement of works, along with an agreement on the access arrangements to allow the new gates to be installed. A pre-condition survey of the working area around each gate will be undertaken prior to the works starting.

We have created a visualisation of a new flood gate where the opening width is being reduced. Figure 3 below shows how the existing opening will be reduced in width, with Figure 4 demonstrating what the new arrangement will look like. These changes have been agreed with the landowner to reduce a number of operational risks. The gate opening width will be reduced to 1.8m, as no vehicular access is required.

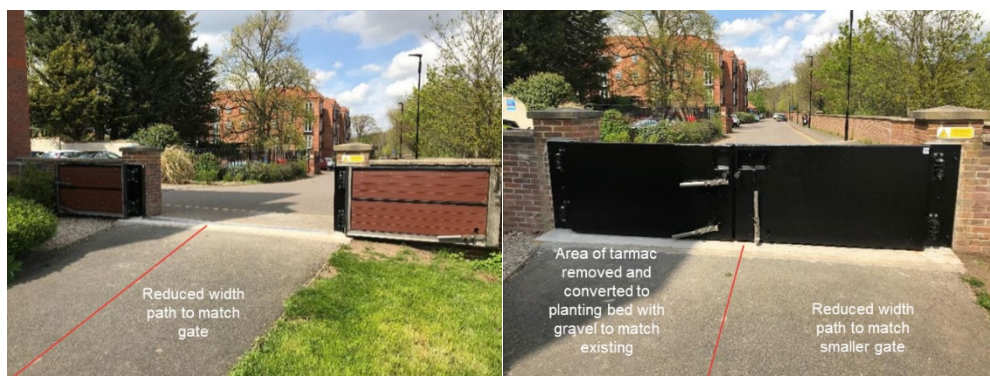


Figure 3: Existing layout with simple annotations of proposed works:



Figure 4: Proposed layout presented through Visualisations. The new flood gates will be black.

Environmental Enhancements:

In the last issue of this newsletter, we mentioned that we'd been working with the Tees Rivers Trust to develop some small-scale environmental enhancement proposals on the banks of the River Tees.

The Tees around Yarm has historically been modified for recreational and flood protection purposes, as well as for urbanisation. Because of this, through the Water Framework Direction (WFD) several mitigation measures have been identified to help maximise the waterbodies ecological potential.

We have therefore proposed to implement the following mitigation measures to create habitat, food sources, enhance existing structures, restore natural processes and rehabilitate the banks. We propose to achieve this through implementing the following on sections of the river:

- Use of willow spiling in areas so that the willow roots grow into and strengthen the riverbanks.
- Use of natural materials in areas to protect the toe of the riverbank from erosion.
- Use of seeded coir matting in areas of high wear to reduce erosion of the bank.
- Installation of coir roll and reeds to create new habitat along the edge of the Tees.

The proposed EA funded measures are designed to provide ecological improvement to a heavily modified waterbody. The proposals are natural, will create habitat, improve ecology, and will rehabilitate around 50m of riverbank, increasing the resilience of sections of bank along True Lovers Walk.

You can find more information about the proposed Environmental Enhancements on our webpage - <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/north-east/yarm-floodgates>

Timescales

We continue to work on the detailed design of the new flood gates and once finalised, the detailed programme of works will be produced and shared with the landowners and stakeholders. Currently we plan to install the public access gates first. We will speak with all landowners and stakeholders as soon as the detailed programme has been developed, to inform them of the anticipated construction window for each flood gate.

Finding out more information

Drop In Session

On Monday 27th March, we will be in Yarm Library on the High Street from 11:00 – 14:00. This is an informal drop-in session where we'd be happy to answer any questions about the Scheme. We will shortly release a timetable of drop-in events on our webpage.

If you would like more information or have a specific question, 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>



If you have received this Newsletter as a paper copy, to try and save paper, we would like to continue these Newsletters electronically over Email. If you would like to receive a copy, please let us know by emailing us on the above email, stating you wish to receive the Newsletter via Email.