

Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme

April 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of the Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme newsletter. The flood gate replacement work is vital to managing flood risk to over 500 properties within Yarm.

The Environment Agency is undertaking essential works to replace 29 Flood Gates in Yarm, along with works to the existing flood walls and provision of improved access arrangements around the new flood gates. This essential work is required to ensure better flood protection to the whole community, which includes over 500 properties. The project involves significant civil engineering works, which must be carried out in a safe manner, both for those undertaking the works and the wider public.

Continuation of works – Third phase of the flood gate replacement has commenced.

The new flood gates on the West side of Yarm (Phase two) which provide access onto True Lovers Walk have been installed and tested, with re-instatement and finalisation of the safe working platforms ongoing. The team are now well underway with the **third and final phase** of the project, which involves the installation of 5 new flood gates and the infilling of one gate opening, all within private gardens.

We have spoken directly with all landowners and occupants who will be impacted by the replacement of this next phase of gates and we will continue to engage with landowners and stakeholders about the ongoing work, including any further testing we need to undertake on installed gates.

We anticipate that the final phase of the project will be completed by the end of July 2025. 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.

True Lovers Walk

We fully understand the use and enjoyment that the community gets from the True Lovers Walk and note the impact on the community when this public footpath is out of use. Due to the need to create a safe working environment, the closure of sections of True Lovers Walk during the works has been required. Where closures have been required, we have done this in a phased manner to reduce impacts to the local community.

The works and associated reinstatement on the **West side of Yarm** along **True Lovers Walk** are close to being completed. **This work is a critical part of the project** and involves the construction of new access steps and platforms which are designed to provide a safe working area for our staff when operating the new flood gates.

We are pleased to advise that the majority of the construction works have been completed, however access for plant is still required along True Lovers Walk to accommodate the remaining works and reinstatement of the path. **Access along the western section of True Lovers Walk will continue to be restricted until mid-May 2025.**

Whilst we understand that the ongoing closure is inconvenient to walkers in the short term, this closure is necessary to facilitate access needs and means that we can safely deliver the scheme and associated re-instatement. We want to reassure the community that we are doing everything possible to re-open the remaining sections of footpath as soon as we can. **We apologise for any inconvenience our activities may cause and thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.**

As part of the scheme's drive to deliver environmental enhancement, we had planned to plant some trees and hedging along True Lovers Walk during February and March 2025. Unfortunately aligning this with the ongoing re-instatement hasn't been possible, so the planting will now be undertaken during the next planting season, in Autumn 2025 – closure of the footpath should not be required to deliver this planting.



Figure 1. Reinstatement of embankments and footpath continues.



Figure 2. New passing places installed on True Lovers Walk – tarmac to be laid.

If you would like more information

If you would like more information or have a specific question, please check the Frequently Asked Questions on our web page via: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/north-east/yarm-floodgates> or by using the QR code.



You can also visit our web page to keep up to date with the latest developments.

Alternatively, if you have any other questions, please get in touch with us via email: EA-YarmFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk or contact BAM's Public Liaison Officer at Ryan.Wilson@bam.com

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