

Yarm Flood Alleviation Scheme

December 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth 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.

Start of Works

The first group of new flood gates are currently being fabricated with our specialist supplier, which should allow works to begin towards the end of January 2024.

The first group of gates at Yarm to be replaced will be a combination of public gates and larger private gates. We have spoken with all landowners and occupiers who will be impacted by the replacement of this first group of gates.

Some of the gates being replaced in the first group will impact access to the True Lovers Walk public footpath. To allow a safe operational work area for the contractors, and to ensure the safety of members of the public, sections of the footpath will be closed off during the works. Notices and signs will be installed in advance of the footpath closures, and we will aim to minimise the disruption by opening up sections of footpath as soon as we possibly can.



Figure 1. Public access gates at Yarm to be replaced in first group

During the replacement of public gates 2, 17 and 23, access onto True Lovers Walk via these gates will not be possible. A gate replacement, subject to the weather will typically take between 3.5 to 5 weeks.

To replace gates 27 to 30 on the East side of Yarm, a temporary road closure will be required to protect the workforce, which we are applying to Stockton Borough Council for (thick red line on the map shows the section of road to be closed). Once gates 27 and 28 have been replaced, the road will be partially re-opened which will allow access into Yarm Wharf Car Park, whilst the replacement of gates 29 and 30 are completed.

In addition, gates 31 and 32 are being replaced within this first group of works. To do this safely, we will need to close the public footpath along the river Tees from Atlas Wynd to Castle Dyke Wynd, and a set of traffic lights will be required to control access past the working area of Gate 31 during the installation.

Once this first group of gates have been replaced, we will move onto replacing the remaining private flood gates in Yarm, which we anticipate will start in late Spring 2024. We will be in touch with all landowners with private gates well in advance of the works to discuss access and timescales.

Pre-Construction Activities

Throughout the last few months, much work has been carried out behind the scenes to develop and with our stakeholders agree a programme for the replacement of this first group of gates. This includes many discussions with Stockton Borough Council over the Traffic Management and sequencing of the works to mitigate or reduce any disruption to Yarm.

Additionally throughout the past few months, we have been working to finalise the remaining private gate designs for installation in late Spring 2024 onwards. We have also been working on designs to improve the access and working areas around some of the gates at Yarm, of which most are now agreed with the relevant landowners.

The first operations which will be visible on site will be the installation of the welfare cabins within the compound area, located on land off the High Street on Bentley Wynd, highlighted on the map below in Figure 2.

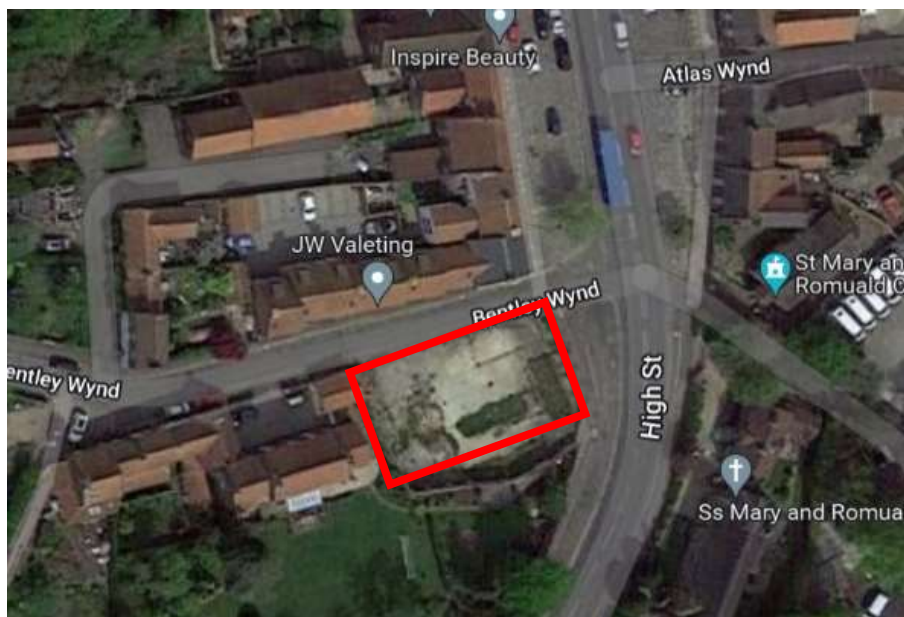


Figure 2. Site compound location

The site compound on Bentley Wynd will be setup and managed by our Contractor BAM Nuttall over a period of weeks commencing in January 2024 and will remain in place until the works are completed.

Whilst the project is ongoing, unrestricted access will be required for site vehicles to and from the compound, as such parking within the entranceway will be prohibited.

During the construction period, there will be some construction traffic around Yarm, although we will ensure this is kept to a minimum.

Recent works

In readiness to begin construction, some additional surveys have recently been carried out around Yarm. The first being the completion of a Drone Survey which has provided a good photographic record of the condition of the areas around the flood gates.

In addition, a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey has been completed informing the contractors of any uncharted services around the working areas. We'd like to thank all landowners and occupiers for providing us with the access to undertake these surveys.



Figure 3. GPR Survey

Environmental Enhancements

In the last issue of this newsletter, we highlighted that we had been working with the Tees Rivers Trust to develop some small-scale environmental enhancement proposals on the banks of the river Tees along True Lovers Walk.

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 Directive (WFD) several mitigation measures have been identified to help maximise the waterbodies ecological potential.

The works which are partially in-channel were planned to start in November, however due to the elevated river levels from the storms, this hasn't been able to happen. We will provide an update on the revised start date for these works when we can. We would really appreciate the help of local volunteers to support the Tees Rivers Trust with these enhancements, so if you would like to volunteer to be involved in these enhancement works, please get in touch with Richard Holmes from the Tees Rivers Trust at richard.holmes@teesriverstrust.org or via the Tees Rivers Trust Facebook page.

Finding out more information

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>



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