

York Flood Alleviation Scheme

Update on the Clifton Ings Barrier Bank Scheme

August 2021

Introduction

This briefing note provides an update on the Environment Agency's plans to reduce flood risk for residents and businesses in the Clifton and Rawcliffe neighbourhoods through the completion of the Clifton Ings Barrier Bank scheme.

As part of the York Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS), we are investing £21 million of government funding on a programme of work to improve flood defences in this area. This will provide a high standard of protection against future flooding, benefitting 135 homes. It will also reduce the risk of flood water spilling on to Shipton Road, keeping an important transport route into the city open and protecting local businesses as well.

Work starts this autumn and will finish by the end of 2023, divided into three construction phases:

Phase one: Autumn/Winter 2021

Initial enabling works and building an alternative Sustrans cycle track.

Phase two: Spring to Autumn 2022

Raising the height of the existing embankment, extending it at the south eastern end, near Homestead Park, and building a new pumping station for Blue Beck.

Phase three: Spring to Autumn 2023

Completing the raising of the existing embankment, building the northern extension of it in Rawcliffe Country Park and carrying out habitat restoration work.



The embankment near the Blue Beck outfall, in Clifton Ings

The first phase of construction

Since gaining approval for this scheme in 2019, we have been working to fulfil the pre-commencement conditions set by City of York Council and have also revised the design of the scheme to minimise its environmental impact. Our contractors, BAM Nuttall, are now ready to start the first phase of work onsite in September. This involves creating a new access point from Shipton Road into the site and installing a temporary compound in what is known as the cornfield (see the annotated map overleaf). We will also build a road on the site for construction vehicles so that the main phase of earthworks can begin early next year. In addition we will build a new section of the Sustrans track, in preparation for the diversion of the old one once work starts in Rawcliffe Meadows in 2022. This work will continue over the winter until spring next year.

Minimising impacts on site users

We recognise that Clifton Ings is an important and much loved green space, used by many people in York. We have therefore designed this scheme very carefully to minimise impacts for visitors and residents. Throughout the construction period, most of the site will remain open and the main access routes along its length, from the northern to southern end, will still be usable. Any other restrictions made during construction are being done so to maintain the safety of members of the public at all times.

These are the changes we need to make during the first phase of work (September 2021 to April 2022):

Two control gates will be installed on the Sustrans route at point X on the map. These will remain open most of the time but will be closed for short periods by a member of staff when vehicles need to cross the path to bring materials onto the site for work on the embankment. They will then be re-opened as soon as the vehicles have passed/completed their work. Outside working hours (evenings and weekends), the gates will be left open and will not cause any obstruction to visitors.

A short stretch of footpath connecting the current Sustrans route onto Clifton Ings will be closed between points X and Y on the map. We need to do this to create a safe working area whilst an alternative route for the Sustrans path is built, starting in November this year. Once this is finished, we will then divert cyclists and pedestrians onto the new track which will be located on the west side of Ings Dyke.

Minimising impacts on local residents

During this first phase of work, we anticipate that traffic levels will not increase significantly. On average, four trucks will enter and leave the site per day. Most vehicles will come from the Ring Road rather than from the southern end of the A19. Construction vehicles leaving the site must turn left and head for the Ring Road to avoid turning across traffic on Shipton Road. This should help to keep traffic flowing on this important arterial route. Measures will be put in place to reduce dust and soil being deposited on the main road.

If you want to find out more about how we manage the impacts of construction on this site, you can download our **Construction Management Plan** from the City of York planning portal at:

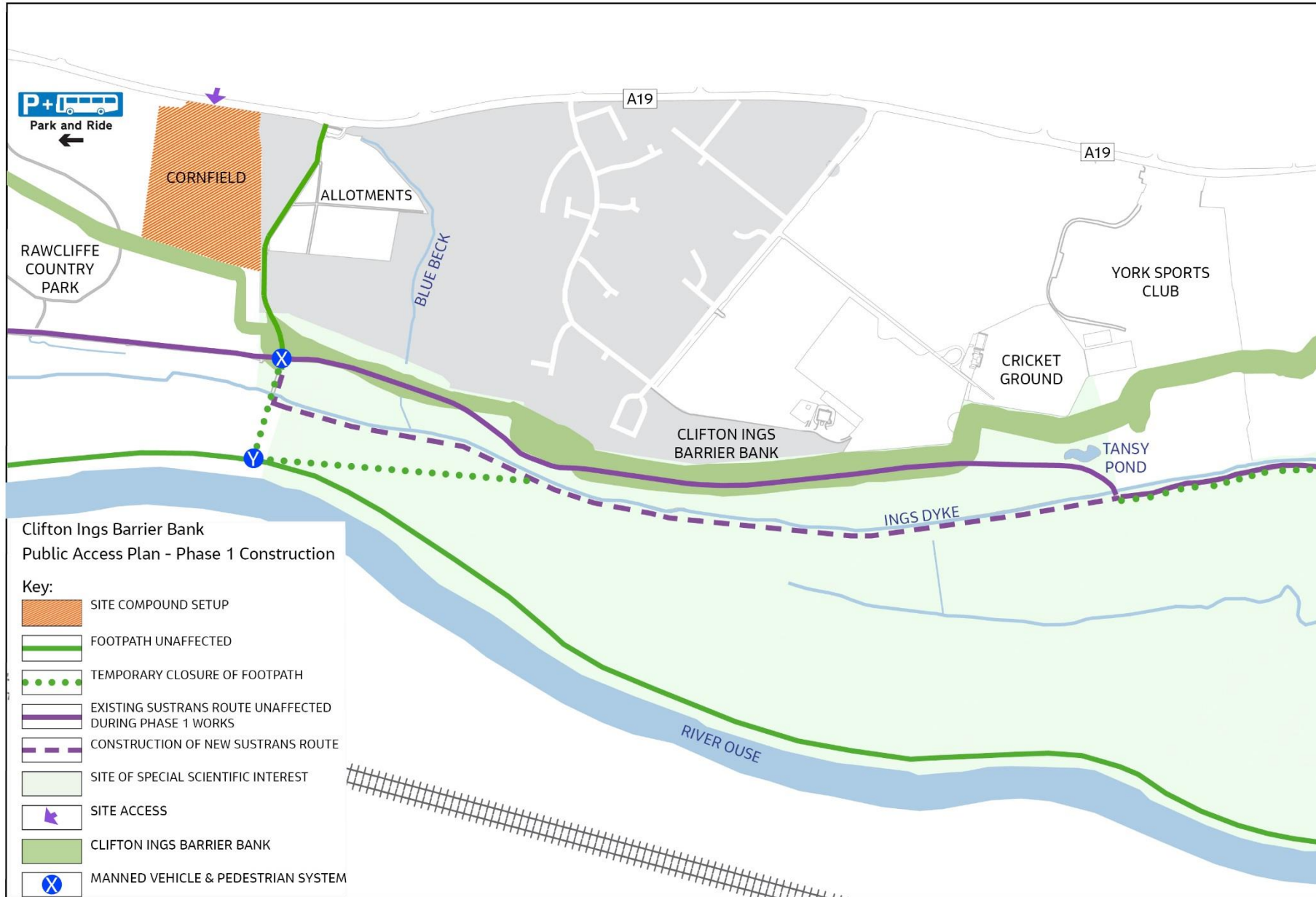
<https://planningaccess.york.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QN8SLZSJIGX00>

How we're reducing
the risk of flooding
for York



 yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk
 consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/
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Map showing access arrangements during the first phase of construction



Minimising impacts on the environment

Before starting construction, we have developed plans to minimise the impact of our work across the site and especially in Rawcliffe Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where rare meadow grassland species and the critically endangered Tansy beetle are found. In order to protect these species, we will carry out a programme of habitat restoration, mitigation and management. We have worked closely with Natural England, CYC's ecologist and the Floodplain Meadows Partnership to work out the complex sequence of actions needed to ensure that these species continue to thrive on the site after construction is completed. This includes translocation (moving individual plants to a new site on Rawcliffe Ings), green hay spreading, seeding and planting. Seed has already been collected from nearby hay meadows and then propagated by Brunswick Organic Nursery, to produce plants ready for autumn 2022.

We have also carried out extensive surveys of other plants and wildlife on site, including a Phase 1 Habitat survey along with surveys for tansy beetles, water voles, great crested newts and possible bat roosts.

Some localised tree felling and clearance of hedges will be needed to ensure construction vehicles can access the site safely. All trees removed during the construction period will be replaced at a ratio of five to one (i.e. five new ones planted for each tree cut down and the same ratio applied to hedge trees) and planted on this site where possible after construction ends. For more information about our plans to replant trees felled as a result of our work, you can find our Tree Strategy on the York Flood Alleviation Scheme website

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/>

More generally, if you want to read more about our plans to minimise impacts on the environment, you can download the **Clifton Ings Barrier Bank Mitigation Strategy** from the Clifton and Rawcliffe page in the York Flood Alleviation Scheme website at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/>

Find out more

To find out more about the Clifton Ings Barrier Bank scheme or the York Flood Alleviation Scheme in general, you can:

Contact us by email us at: yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk

Check out our website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/>

Phone us via the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre: 03708 506 506. Remember to ask to speak to a member of the Clifton Ings Barrier Bank team.

If you want to receive briefings about the scheme or the general York FAS newsletter by email, please contact us on the email address above to make this request.

How we're reducing
the risk of flooding
for York



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