Approval for Clementhorpe Flood Scheme
Clementhorpe

On Thursday 11 June, City of York Council approved our plans for the Clementhorpe Flood Alleviation Scheme. This will provide protection against flooding for 135 properties in an area formerly unprotected against flooding.

Clementhorpe flooding in February 2020

The decision has come several months after we initially submitted our proposals for planning approval. During this time, we have listened carefully to the views of the public and our statutory consultees, and done everything within our ability to reduce the negative impact of the scheme on the community.

Over the next few months, we will continue to work with the council and the community to meet the planning conditions that have been set, before starting work on site in autumn this year.

We will be hosting a public meeting on Zoom at 6:30pm on 29 July to provide residents with an opportunity to talk directly to the project team about the scheme and find out more about what will be happening over the next three months. To receive more information about this event and sign up to our Clementhorpe newsletter, email us at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Join our virtual public meeting
Museum Gardens

Due to the current social distancing measures in place, we are unable to hold public meetings at present and rely mostly on our website, email and social media to provide updates on our schemes. We have also been trialling virtual public meetings to replace our usual public drop-in events.

Last week we organised a virtual Zoom meeting with residents from Skeldergate to explain our proposals to reduce flood risk in this area. A recording of this meeting can be viewed on YouTube at: https://youtu.be/J_XvCmRnU0M

Following the success of this meeting, we are hosting another similar event to provide an update on our plans to raise the flood embankment in Museum Gardens. In late July we will be live-streaming a presentation and Q&A session hosted by the York FAS project team. This will be available to view on our YouTube and Facebook pages, and you will have the option of submitting questions for the team via a web-based option called Slido. The date and time of this event will be shared on our social media pages and with those on our mailing list within the next few weeks.
Spotlight on Lower Bootham

There are over 156 properties at risk of flooding from the River Ouse in Lower Bootham. We built flood defences here in the early 1980s, but since then they have come close to being overtopped by flood water.

What we're doing

Last year, we started work on raising and extending the flood embankment in St Peter’s School fields. This is being done as part of a wider scheme to improve the flood defences on the northern side of Scarborough Bridge. We have recently returned to the site to complete work on the embankment this summer. We have also started work on raising the flood wall and gates along Almery Terrace. Over the next few months, you may see our contractors working in the Almery area. They will be preparing the existing Almery flood wall to install glass panels on top, and installing new, glass-topped gates.

Access and traffic management

As you may have already noticed, we have already fenced off the perimeter of the flood embankment between Westminster Road and Almery Terrace. The site compound is located at the end of Westminster Road in St Peter’s School fields. Construction traffic will access the site from Westminster Road and leave via the Avenue.

Work on the Almery Terrace defences started on 22 June, and will take approximately four months. During this time, the section of riverside path in front of the terraces will be closed intermittently so that our construction vehicles can safely access the area. The rest of the riverside path will remain open. For updates on footpath closures, visit our Facebook page or website. We will also have signs on site indicating when footpaths are expected to be closed.

Next steps

We will be sharing updates on our scheme via our website, email newsletters and social media pages. To sign up to our Lower Bootham newsletters, email us at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk.
What’s happening in our other flood cells?

**Marygate (B12)**
We are raising the flood walls and gates in the Marygate area and the flood embankment in Museum Gardens. We will be submitting a planning application to City of York Council this summer.

**Clifton and Rawcliffe (B10)**
We are developing a programme for work to start in Autumn 2020. We will provide more information about our construction work and timescales closer to the time.

**Lower Bootham (B11)**
We are raising the existing flood embankment, wall and gates between Scarborough Bridge and Lendal Bridge. Work on the flood embankment and Almery Terrace flood defences started at the beginning of June.

**Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge (B4)**
We have completed work on improving the flood wall and gates on North Street. We will return later in the year to install a taller flood gate under Lendal Bridge.

**Skeldergate and Queen’s Staith (B7)**
Property flood resilience has been determined as the best option for this flood cell.

**Bishopthorpe (C1)**
We have submitted a planning application to City of York Council to install a flood wall and gate on Chantry Lane.

**Acaster Malbis (C2)**
Property Flood Resilience has been determined as the best option for this flood cell.

**Foss Storage Area (F8, F10, F11)**
We have submitted a planning application to City of York Council and Ryedale District Council. We are working with partner organisations to ensure the best outcome for this scheme.

**Westfield Beck (F12)**
We are carrying out some more appraisal work to find the best solution for this flood cell. We are continuing discussions with Yorkshire Water regarding their sewer infrastructure and City of York Council regarding surface water flooding.

**Tang Hall and Osbalduck Becks (F4&F5)**
We have completed ground investigations at St Nick’s Nature Reserve and are still assessing the feasibility of creating a new channel for Osbalduck Beck in the nature reserve.

**New Walk (B16)**
Property Flood Resilience surveys at eligible properties are now completed. Our suppliers will be installing the agreed measures within the next few months.

**Naburn (C3)**
PFR has been confirmed as the best option for this area. We are currently developing a programme for delivery and engagement.

**Fulford (B9)**
Flood defence work in this cell will be led and delivered by City of York Council in partnership with us.
COVID-19 Update
York FAS

Following government advice we are clear that the safety of everyone is our priority. We are also clear that much of our work has been identified as essential by the government and they are keen for us to continue to do this, where it remains safe to do so.

We will therefore continue to work on our projects to build new flood defences for your protection. Following Public Health England’s advice, our contractors have been trained in safe ways of working and will not put anyone at risk. If the work cannot be done safely it will stop.

York FAS website update
York FAS

Over the past few months, we have been reviewing our online webpages and have now updated them to improve their accessibility and readability. You will be able to read about what we are doing in each area of the city, and download the most recent newsletters and updates. Our website can be found at: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/

Putting people and wildlife first
York FAS

At the Environment Agency, we put people and wildlife first to create a better place for them. This means building flood defences to protect lives, but also finding opportunities to improve local habitat whilst doing so. In York, we appreciate that constructing flood defences will cause some temporary damage to the environment, and are doing everything we can to keep it to an absolute minimum.

Before starting work on site, our contractors carry out surveys for rare species, including bats, great-crested newts, water voles and tansy beetle. Where we encounter them, we must put mitigation measures in place to protect these species before we start work on site.

Where trees need to be felled to make room for construction access or new flood defences, we are replanting them at a ratio of 5:1, according to our York FAS Tree Strategy. Where possible, we will remove trees and hedgerows outside of the bird nesting season, and enlist the help of an Ecologist to check for the presence of nests before doing so.

Where possible, we are using the flood defence works as an opportunity to improve habitats for wildlife. Examples include the storage area on the River Foss and the new channel for Tang Hall Beck at St Nick’s, which will provide new wetland environments.

Remember that even homes and businesses which are protected by flood defences are still at risk of flooding. Our free flood warning service provides up-to-date information about flood risk in York straight to your mobile. You can sign up to receive flood alerts and flood warnings at: https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings