

June 2021

# Keeping you informed York Flood Alleviation Scheme

We are dedicated to better protecting 2,000 properties in York from flooding. The aim of this newsletter is to update you on progress with our schemes and inform you of upcoming public events.

## Construction starts on several Flood Alleviation Schemes

The last three months have been extremely busy and exciting for the project teams working on the York Flood Alleviation Scheme (York FAS). After years of complicated and detailed design work, we have been able to begin construction of several flood risk management schemes. This includes schemes started in Clementhorpe and Bishopthorpe in May, along with work started this month in Marygate. We are also preparing to start work on the Foss Flood Storage Area, north of Strensall. In addition to this, work began under Lendal Bridge and is almost finished in Lower Bootham.

Ben Hughes, director of the York FAS, said:

*"We're very pleased that important work is starting to reduce the risk of flooding for homes and businesses, as well as infrastructure in York. It's great news for the city. Whilst it may cause some inconvenience for people living in and passing through those areas, this work is essential for the long-term resilience of the city, which, as we're all too aware, is prone to flooding."*

More details about what's happening in these flood cells can be found in the sections below.



*Figure 1 - Work continuing installing our new and bigger flood gates under Lendal Arch on 23 June 2021*

## Clementhorpe

Work has started on our flood alleviation scheme at Clementhorpe, between Skeldergate Bridge and Millennium Bridge. Our contractors began in March by setting up a site compound on the playing field in Rowntree Park. Construction work in the past month has been based around Terry Avenue, focusing on satisfying road safety requirements, and conducting investigation work to identify underground services and drains.

To accommodate our construction work, we have had to partially close Terry Avenue for 12 months. Currently, the closure runs from Skeldergate Bridge to just north of Clementhorpe Road. However, in the coming weeks, the closure will be extended southwards, up to the Dukes Wharf entrance, preventing access to Clementhorpe Road.

The closure and disruption caused is regrettable. However, it is necessary because of the work we will be doing in the area, which involves very complex underground work. This includes a 240-metre-long, 6-metre-deep trench that will be dug, in stages, along Terry Avenue, to install a semi permeable barrier. This work will prevent flood waters from passing underneath above-ground flood defences and flooding low-lying areas of Clementhorpe. The road closure helps protect the public whilst the work is carried out. Large machinery is now in operation on the closed section of road and works will soon escalate, with excavation work starting.

To allow vehicle access to premises along Terry Avenue the Byway has temporarily been reinstated as a highway. We have informed residents in the area and put in place appropriate diversions for cars and cyclists. Access for cars to the caravan site and Roomzzz Hotel will be via Butcher Terrace.

We appreciate that this work will inconvenience. However, to build flood defences in such a densely populated urban location is difficult, and it has been necessary to restrict access. These diversion routes have been developed after a lengthy period of communication and consultation with the local

community to minimise the disruption caused by this work. They have also been approved by an independent road safety auditor and City of York Council.

For news and updates on any diversions, please follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/YorkFAS](http://www.facebook.com/YorkFAS)) or twitter (@EnvAgencyYNE)

Once completed, the Clementhorpe section of this flood scheme will provide improved flood protection to 135 homes and businesses.



*Figure 2 - A picture of the work being done on Terry Avenue on 22 June 2021*

## Bishopthorpe

Work started in May 2021 to build a new 180-metre-long floodwall, with underground piling, along Chantry Lane and the boundary of the palace grounds and a new floodgate across the bottom of Chantry Lane. The wall incorporates a six-metre-deep steel barrier underneath the flood wall to prevent flood waters undermining the defences.

The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to 117 properties, as well as Main Street in Bishopthorpe, helping to protect access for residents in the south of the village.

## Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge

We have recently started installing new and bigger flood gates under Lendal Arch, protecting 39 homes and businesses from flooding. This is the final stage of work to improve flood defences in this area; last year we raised the height of flood walls and replaced the flood gates along North Street Gardens and built a short flood wall along Leeman Road in front of Memorial Gardens. We intend to complete this work this summer. During this time there is no pedestrian or cycle access under Lendal Arch, however, diversion routes are clearly signed and marked.

## Marygate

Our contractors have begun work in Museum Gardens, installing a site compound in Marygate car park last month. Work has started on raising the flood wall from Scarborough Bridge to Marygate, this includes installing glass panels on top of the defences along Earlsborough Terrace. This August we will start extending and raising the height of the existing flood embankment in the gardens. This work is due to be completed in November 2021. We have worked closely with staff from the Museum Trust to produce new plans for the gardens once the work is completed, and this has presented an opportunity to landscape them according to historical designs, reflecting the origins of the park.

This scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to 57 homes and businesses in the Marygate area.



Figure 3 – Photo of works being done to raise the flood wall from Scarborough Bridge to Marygate on 23 June

## York Tree Planting Strategy

In places where we are constructing flood defences to protect properties and residents, we often need large amounts of space to build embankments or move heavy machinery around. Furthermore, once flood defences are built, we usually need to provide vehicle access for their maintenance or make sure that there are no obstructions that could damage them in the future. Sadly, this means that in certain situations we must remove some trees to enable our flood defence work to proceed. We recognise the negative impact this can have on both the environment and the local community and as such, we are mitigating for the direct loss of trees resulting from our work by planting five trees for every tree we have to remove - that's a lot of new trees that need to be planted in York!



Example of Tree Planting

Unfortunately, we have had a limited number of suggestions from the public so far. We understand that it can be difficult to find suitable locations due to the urban nature of the areas we are working on, but with only two months left, we would encourage our readers to make their suggestions, and to share the tree planting map with anyone you may know who may also have some ideas.

The map can be accessed using the link below. The map will be available to the public until the end of August.

The map is quick and easy to use, however please read the instructions before making your suggestions. Our tree planting suggestion map can be found here: [York Tree Planting Suggestion Map](#)

## What's happening in our other flood cells?

### Foss Storage Area (F8, F10, F11)

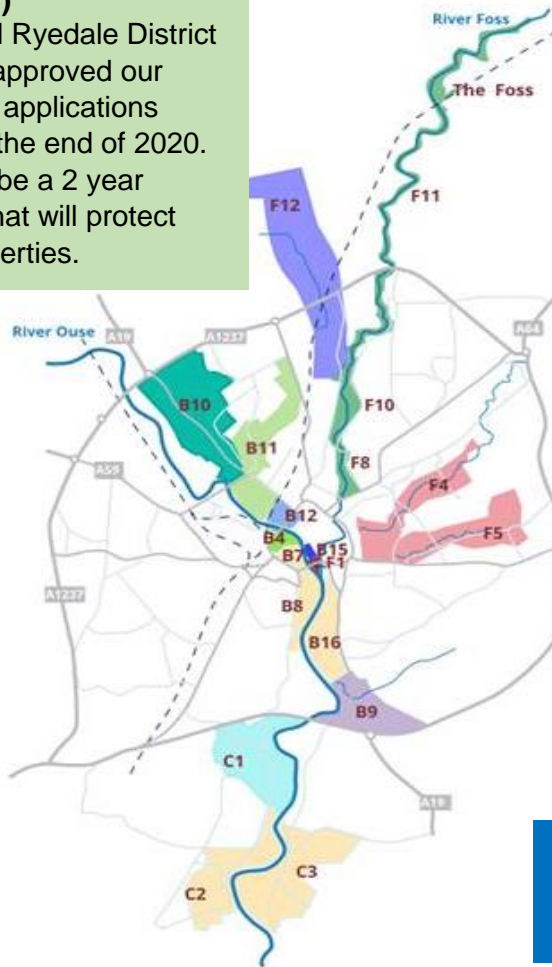
CYC and Ryedale District Council approved our planning applications towards the end of 2020. This will be a 2 year project that will protect 490 properties.

### Lower Bootham (B11)

We are increasing the height of the flood embankment and the flood defences along Almerly Terrace. We will return in 2021 to install a flood gate on Almerly Terrace steps and work on the Network Rail embankment.

### Westfield Beck (F12)

We are carrying out some more appraisal work to find the best way to reduce flooding for this flood cell. We are continuing discussions with Yorkshire Water regarding their sewer infrastructure and CYC regarding surface water flooding.



### Clifton and Rawcliffe (B10)

We are currently agreeing pricing contracts with our contractor and reviewing costs of the scheme. We expect to start construction in summer 2021, with a 3 year programme.

### Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks (F4&F5)

Due to escalating costs, we are unable to go ahead with the 'open culvert' scheme that had been originally planned. We are investigating other options.

### Kings Staith (B15)

We are still in the initial design stage for this flood cell.

### Skeldergate and Queen's Staith (B7)

Eligible homeowners should have received Property Flood Resilience questionnaires. Our contractors soon start their planning work, and onsite visits to residents at the beginning of August.

### Foss Basin (F1)

Planned works at St George's field car park are to raise the height of walled defences. These works, to be carried out in 2021 will include temporary/demountable defences across Tower Street.

### New Walk (B16)

Our contractors have completed installation of property flood resilience measures to homes in the New Walk and Fulford area. There will be soon be a public event for residents to discuss their property flood resilience.

### South Bank (B8)

Our contractors JBA have finished the property flood resilience surveys here. If you feel like you have been missed, please get in touch.

### Naburn (C3)

Eligible homeowners should have received Property Flood Resilience questionnaires. Our contractors soon start their planning work, and onsite visits to residents at the beginning of August.

### Fulford (B9)

Flood defence work in this cell is being led and delivered by CYC in partnership with us. They have identified a preferred option of defences and a pumping station to provide protection to homes and maintain access on Fordlands Road during flooding. The scheme will also aid future flood resilience on the A19. The next stage is for detailed design and preparation of all planning and other approvals.

### Acaster Malbis (C2)

We have determined Property Flood Resilience as the best approach to dealing with flooding for this flood cell.

## Coronavirus Update



York Community Flood Hub entrance, Wellington Street

On Monday 14th June, the Prime Minister announced a 4-week pause on step 3 of the roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions. It is now expected that England will move to Step 4 on 19<sup>th</sup> July. More

information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The work of the York Flood Alleviation Scheme Team will not change as a result of changes to the roadmap and we will continue to progress with our schemes to better protect properties from flooding in York.

We are now looking forward to Stage four (July) of the government's plan, when the hope is that all legal limits on social contact will be removed, we would like you to have your say on how we use the York Community Flood Hub. It was originally opened to provide a central location where residents could go and find out more about our schemes in York. It opened on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 10am until 4pm.

We would like to know if you think these days and opening hours are accommodating to your use of the Hub. Would you still want to visit the Community Flood Hub when it can be re-opened?

The York FAS Team would appreciate some feedback and have included a link to a short questionnaire, to enable us to use the Community Flood Hub to its full potential, post Coronavirus lockdown restrictions [\[Questionnaire\]](#).

## Have a suggestion for our Newsletter?

Would you like to see something else in our Quarterly Newsletter? Let us know through our email: [yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**To sign up for updates on any of the flood schemes mentioned in this newsletter, please email us at [yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk) and include the scheme's name or location in the subject of the email.**



The Environment Agency and the entire York Flood Alleviation Scheme Team are proud to support the LGBT+ community both during Pride month, and all year around.