

Keeping you informed

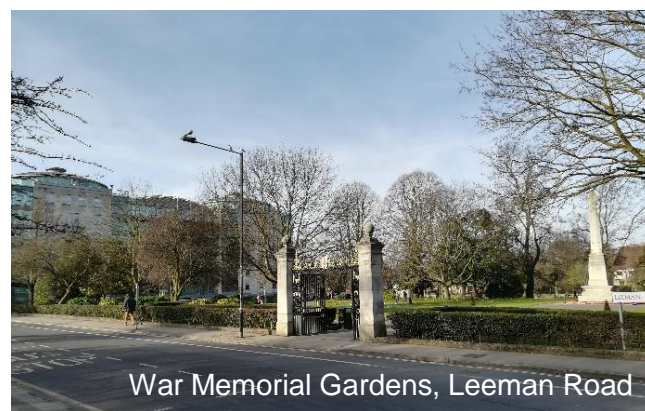
York Flood Alleviation Scheme

Clifton Ings and North Street go to planning

Since our last newsletter was published in December, we submitted plans for two of our flood cells to City of York Council for planning approval:

Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge (ref.19/00021/FUL)

Proposed work in this flood cell includes raising the existing flood walls and gates on North Street, waterproofing the Hub building and constructing a short flood wall between Leeman Road and War Memorial Gardens. This will better protect 39 properties and businesses and reduce the risk of flooding to Leeman Road.



War Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road

Clifton Ings Barrier Bank (ref.19/00007/FULM)

Following extensive engagement with the public and local interest groups, we have submitted our proposals to raise the height of the existing Clifton Ings Barrier Bank and extend it at both ends into Rawcliffe Country Park and Homestead Park to tie into higher ground. We are also proposing to install a new pumping station on Blue Beck. This will better protect 140 properties and reduce the risk of flooding to Shipton Road.



Clifton Ings Barrier Bank

As part of the planning process, you have the opportunity to comment positively or negatively about our proposals by visiting the CYC planning portal at:

<https://planningaccess.york.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Join the conversation at our Clementhorpe drop-in

You may have noticed quite a bit of activity in the Clementhorpe area over the past few months. That's because we've been busy carrying out a series of ground investigations, environmental surveys and risk assessments to help inform the design of a flood scheme for the area. Based on findings from these investigations, we have made some changes to our proposed scheme to ensure it provides properties in Clementhorpe with a high standard of protection.

If you would like to find out more, come along to our drop-in event at Clementhorpe Community Centre, Lower Ebor Street between 3pm and 7pm on Wednesday 6 March. We will have detailed information, maps and diagrams on display and the project team will be on hand to answer any of your questions.



Clementhorpe

Following this event, we plan to submit our proposals to City of York Council for planning approval in the week commencing 11 March. An update will be provided on social media and our webpages when this becomes available on the CYC planning portal for comment.

Next steps for the Foss Barrier

Our work on improving the Foss Barrier is nearing completion and that means that it is almost time to take down the concrete blocks! Increasing the height of the barrier building has been essential to improve its resilience to flooding. In particular, it has provided room to move the electricity supply above flood level and install back-up generators for the pumps. Now these are in place, we can remove the concrete blocks from the barrier site. This work will commence at Easter and take up to two months to complete.



The Foss Barrier

Our next steps will be to increase the height of the barrier gate in the summer to tie in with the new defences heights throughout the city.

Climate Change at the Hub

Do you want to find out more about climate change in York? From Monday 11 March, we will have a display at the Hub dedicated to explaining our approach to limiting and adapting the impacts of climate change, with a focus on flooding in York. This is temporary as part of a calendar of displays so make sure you catch it before it's gone!

Get in touch by emailing the team at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk



Come see us at The Hub on Wellington Row

Monday | Wednesday | Thursday
10am – 4pm



York Hub



or find out more at consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/riverfoss/

It is not possible to prevent all flooding

After the floods of Boxing Day 2015, the Government provided an additional £45 million to better protect 2000 properties from river flooding across the administrative boundary covered by City of York Council. However, surface water flooding, which happens when heavy rain overwhelms drains, is managed by City of York Council. We support them by sharing data and giving advice and guidance.

We are dedicated to better protecting 2000 properties in York by 2021

We have a dedicated team working across 19 flood cells to ensure we use the Government’s funding to achieve maximum benefits in reducing flood risk throughout the city. We published our initial thoughts on how this money might best be spent in the York 5 Year Plan and have since identified 19 different flood cells where action must be taken to reduce flood risk. Each flood cell has its own complexities and no two are the same. We aim to provide a consistent standard of defence in those cells where it is cost beneficial.

Everything we do must benefit the nation as a whole

We are spending tax payer’s money so any work we do must be cost beneficial and meet strict guidelines set by the government. These guidelines help to ensure that, on average, every £1 invested in flood and coastal risk management saves £9.50 in damages. However, it does mean that when calculating the cost and benefit of a scheme, we can only consider these for the whole city and not for the individual. Unfortunately this has meant that we have had to make some difficult decisions, with work going ahead in some parts of the city and not others.

“Every £1 invested in flood and coastal risk management saves £9.50 in damages”

We look for opportunities to actively enhance the natural and historic environment whilst providing flood protection

It is of national benefit to include environmental and social improvements as part of our project. We are engaging with local community groups, businesses and statutory organisations to consider ways to improve the natural environment and provide wider benefits throughout the city.

Each flood cell is varied and complex in nature

It is always the case in projects of this nature that many different options are considered and put forward at varying times. This is because it is crucial that we consider whether each option is cost beneficial, technically and operationally feasible, and acceptable to the local community and planning authorities. The range of different options includes raising existing embankments, installing new gates, building new walls, building new flood storage areas and the provision of bespoke property flood resilience measures.



Strengthening Defences



Resilience



Maintenance



Upstream Management

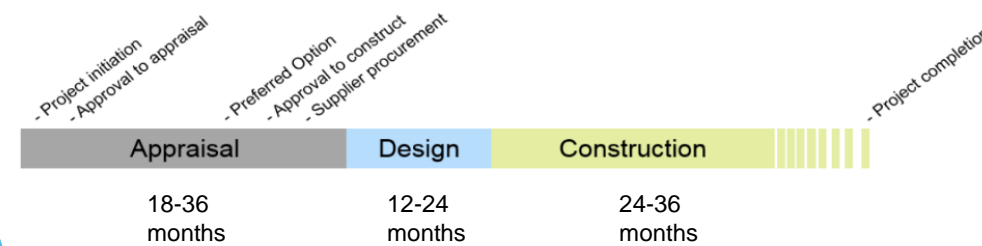
Our key messages

For those eligible, we will be providing bespoke property flood resilience measures through our national framework

There are some parts of the city where it is impossible to build traditional flood defences. In these situations we urge eligible residents to consider whether they could benefit from a bespoke defence such as property flood resilience (PFR). We have recently adopted a new national PFR framework which ensures that there are a number of suppliers who are committed to meeting our high standards of customer service, quality of solution and installation practices.

It takes time to deliver a project of this complexity

We understand the frustration and concern of residents at the apparent lack of construction so far. However, it is essential that public money is spent wisely to benefit the city as a whole. This is a very complex project containing a variety of elements which need extremely careful preparatory work. On average, a scheme of this size should take a minimum of eight years; our dedicated team is working tirelessly to delivery our scheme to the same high standard in just five years.



We cannot keep building higher walls in the city

Our records show that peak annual river levels on the Ouse are rising on average by eight millimetres a year. However, we cannot keep building higher walls in York. As part of our Long Term Plan, we are looking to build flood storage areas and use natural flood management techniques to ‘slow the flow’ and reduce the volume of water in the river at peak flow.