

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.

Clementhorpe Better Protected

Work in Clementhorpe completed earlier this month

Our work in Clementhorpe, between Skeldergate Bridge and Rowntree Park on the right bank of the River Ouse, is now complete. This work has reduced the risk of flooding to 162 properties in the area.

To reduce the flood risk:

- We have built:
 - A flood wall in front of Waterfront House and a new flood wall to link into the newly improved defences, completed by Roomzzz Hotel, on Lower Ebor Street.
 - An embankment and short wall along the boundary of Rowntree Park.
 - An underground flood defence along Terry Avenue, known as “seepage mitigation”. (This is a semi-permeable underground barrier to limit the amount of flood water that can pass under, overground flood defences.)
- We have raised the corners of the existing boundary walls at Postern Close and installed new flood defences between Postern Close and Postern House.
- We have raised the height of the existing flood defence walls and constructed an earth embankment on the boundary of Rowntree Caravan Park.
- We have installed:
 - A new flood gate on Clementhorpe, at the junction with Terry Avenue.
 - A new flood wall and raised the road level at Dukes Wharf.
- Property Flood Resilience (PFR) has been installed at 27 properties at the southern portion of Clementhorpe, as the most suitable option where there are no formal flood defences.



Fig. 1 New Flood Wall at Waterfront House

Outstanding landscaping, such as grass seeding and tree planting, in the areas disrupted by our work will be completed as soon as conditions are suitable.



Fig. 2 New Flood Gate at Clementhorpe Junction

MG4 Grassland Translocation at Clifton & Rawcliffe

As part of our extensive programme to protect local wildlife whilst we continue our flood defence works at Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows, our contractors have been translocating the nationally scarce MG4 grassland species.

What is MG4 Grassland?

MG4 is the name given to grassland found in floodplain meadows with a high species diversity. MG4 is characterised by the presence of species such as Greater Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*).

York holds around 8% of the nationally scarce MG4 grassland resource. These meadows have a long history of traditional management which has resulted in the species communities present today.

The Barrier Bank improvement works we are doing in the area will involve raising and widening of the current embankment. Where the widening is required within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), this will unfortunately result in some unavoidable loss of some of this grassland.

Through working with Natural England and the Floodplain Meadow Partnership, we have developed suitable mitigation measures to compensate for this loss.

What is translocation?



Fig. 3 Specialist Machinery safely cutting MG4 grassland

Translocation is simply moving something from one place to another. Part of our mitigation measures include translocating the MG4 grassland to areas within Rawcliffe Ings that we will be restoring as part of our ongoing improvement works.

We have specifically chosen suitable sites to move the grassland to by reviewing hydrological data and following guidance from the Floodplain Meadow Partnership. We are following best practice guidelines and using specialist machinery to cut and lift the MG4 grassland, before moving it swiftly to its new specially prepared location.

Once the MG4 grassland is relocated, it is monitored daily and watered when required to ensure it thrives in its new home. We are happy to say that our pilot translocation work is already showing positive signs of establishment and success.



Fig. 4 Site with MG4 grassland safely cut and lifted out



Landscaping in the Museum Gardens

Our landscaping contractors, ATM, have been working hard in the Museum Gardens over the last few months following the completion of our flood defence works. Below is an outline of some of the work that has been done so far, as well as some further information as to what is happening next.

ATM and ourselves continue to work closely with York Museums Trusts throughout the design and implementation of this work.

What have we done so far?

- Reinstatement of grass and wildflowers covering the main embankment
- Landscaping at the base of the embankment – including clearing the existing poor-quality vegetation along the woodland path, identifying species to retain, and planting over 2,800 species of shade-loving ornamental plants, grasses, shrubs, and trees. These have been planted in swathes to create a flowing landscaping in-keeping with the garden’s character and aligning with the vision of York Museums Trust.



Fig. 5 Landscaping completed along the woodland path

- Planting and seeding of the terraced areas with a mix of wildflower and trailing ornamental species, including hydroseeding of the vertical faces to create a “green wall”. This design intends to create semi-wild, naturalistic landscape that acts as part of the flood defence, whilst also creating key habitat for pollinators and a visually pleasing feature for the gardens. It will take a number of years for this to be fully established.
- Implemented a strict watering regime, in line with official guidance, to ensure best survival rates of the newly planted stock.

What is happening next?

- Works on the terraced areas will continue, planting over 17,000 bulbs.
- Tree planting will begin in the upcoming tree planting season, with specially selected species in key locations. The trees will reflect the original aims of the historical botanical gardens, including unusual species such as the Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa*), Japanese Raisin Tree (*Hovenia*) and Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax*).



Engagement Survey – Share your thoughts!

Since the beginning of the York FAS in 2016, we have engaged with many different stakeholders ranging from individuals, local communities, and voluntary organisations in the city, to local government and statutory consultees.

Now that many of our schemes have been completed, we would like to hear your views on how well we have kept you informed. This will help us to learn lessons and improve our engagement approach for future projects.

We are launching our Engagement Survey on **Saturday 1st October**. It will be available for two months, closing at midnight on Wednesday 30th November.

We want to hear all of your feedback, positive and negative, on any of our engagement work that you have come into contact with since work on York FAS began in 2016. This includes social media, newsletter, public drop in events, email communications, and much more.

Link to the survey can be found here: [York Flood Alleviation Scheme: tell us your views on our engagement work - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](http://environment-agency.gov.uk/york-flood-alleviation-scheme-tell-us-your-views-on-our-engagement-work)



York FAS School Resources now available

We are pleased to be able to announce the launch of our education resources for schools. With the national curriculum in mind, we have developed a range of resources for use across KS2, KS3 and KS4. It looks at the history and causes of flooding in York, a close examination of the events of Boxing Day 2015, and the work that has since been done in the city to better protect it from flooding.

Resources include:

- A comprehensive case study of the York Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Fully developed two-part lesson for use by teachers, including lesson plans and accompanying PowerPoint Slides
- Presentations for larger group audiences

Subject to availability, we are also able to offer visits from Environment Agency staff to come to York schools to present on the York Flood Alleviation Scheme. As well as accompanying any school visits to York City Centre to see the defences we have in place.

If you would like access to any of these resources, or would like to discuss the possibility of Environment Agency staff visiting your school, please send us an email at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk

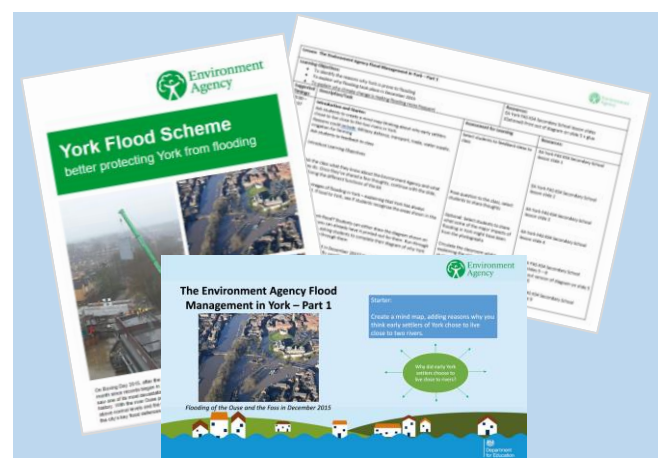


Fig. 6 Examples of the York FAS School Resources



Community Flood Hub now closed

Our community Flood Hub on Wellington Row is now closed to the public permanently. We made this decision now that many of our schemes have been completed, and our visitor numbers were low.

Members of the public can still send any questions, concerns, or queries to our mailbox at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk where they will be picked up by a member of our team.

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has visited the Hub over the last few years to learn more about flooding and our flood schemes in York.



Fig.7 The closed community hub on Wellington Row

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

Winter Readiness

In early October, members of our Field Teams will be visiting our new flood defences in the city to ensure that they are ready and prepared to put them into action if needed during the upcoming winter period. We'll be posting photos of how this goes on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, so keep an eye out!

Remember that even protected properties are still at risk of flooding

The City of York is largely covered by our Flood Warning system. This is a free service which gives notice of when flooding is expected so that you can be prepared or take any necessary action. To sign up for Flood Warnings please:

Call **Floodline on 0345 988 1188** or visit www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



FLOOD ALERT



FLOOD WARNING



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

Find out your risk of flooding, and see what warnings are in force at any time by visiting

www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk

You can find useful tips on what to do should flooding threaten your home and valuables by visiting <https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk>

