

Keeping you informed: we're nearly finished...

March 2020

We have nearly completed work on improving the flood defences between Scarborough Bridge and Ouse Bridge.

Background

The flood wall along North Street and Lendal Bridge flood gate have previously come close to overtopping and needed increasing in height to cope with rising flood levels and the effects of climate change. There was a risk that flood water could flow round the end of our existing defences, finding a path through the War Memorial Gardens and the York City Rowing Club boathouse. This could lead to the flooding of properties on Rougier Street and Wellington Row.

Our scheme will reduce flood risk in this part of the city and form part of the wider York 5 Year Plan which aims to better protect 2000 properties in York by 2021.

What we've done so far

We have completed the majority of flood defence improvement work in this area. This includes:

- Raising the flood walls and gates on North Street by around 30 centimetres
- Widening the flood gate at the upper end of North Street Gardens to improve access
- Waterproofing of the Park Inn and the Hub building on Wellington Row
- Construction of a low flood wall between Leeman Road and War Memorial Gardens, which connects to a new floodbank in the grounds of City of York Rowing Club
- Installation of demountable panels across the entrances to War Memorial Gardens.

Now that this work is complete, our site compound has been removed and the car parking spaces opposite The Maltings pub reinstated.

February flooding

Last month, we experienced the highest levels on the River Ouse in York since 2015. Following Storm Ciara,

the Ouse reached a peak level of 4.33m AOD at our Viking Recorder on North Street. Just a few days later, Storm Dennis brought a second peak of 4.42m AOD.

During this time the new floodgates on North Street were closed in anger for the first time and successfully protected roads, homes and businesses in the area from flooding. As a precaution we also installed the new demountable defences in the Memorial Gardens but on this occasion the floodwater didn't reach them.

During the first peak in levels water was observed seeping through one of our new floodgates so as soon as levels subsided we got the gate manufacturer back to make some adjustments to the seals and it performed much better when the flood waters rose again.

It should be remembered that floodgates are rarely 100% waterproof and that some minor seepage will not compromise the effectiveness of the defences.

Our next steps

To complete the scheme, we need to replace the double floodgate under Lendal Bridge with a bigger one that will provide the same level of flood protection as the rest of the floodwalls and gates on North Street and Memorial Gardens.

This new taller flood gate is currently being designed and we plan to install it in autumn this year so that we don't cause any disruption during the summer holidays. We will provide an update on our timescales and any access restrictions closer to the time.

When the new gate has been installed, the flood defences will provide a 1 in 100 year standard of protection against flooding, with an allowance for climate change. This means that if river levels rise as predicted over the next 20 years, your level of flood protection won't change. After 2039, our long term plan is to use natural flood management and storage areas upstream of the city to manage the rise in river levels due to climate change.

 yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk  consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/Yorkshire/yorkfas/

 The Hub, Wellington Row, York, YO1 6FZ  @YorkFAS  @EnvAgencyYNE

 Environment Agency, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PR

Get in touch to find out how we're reducing the risk of flooding in York

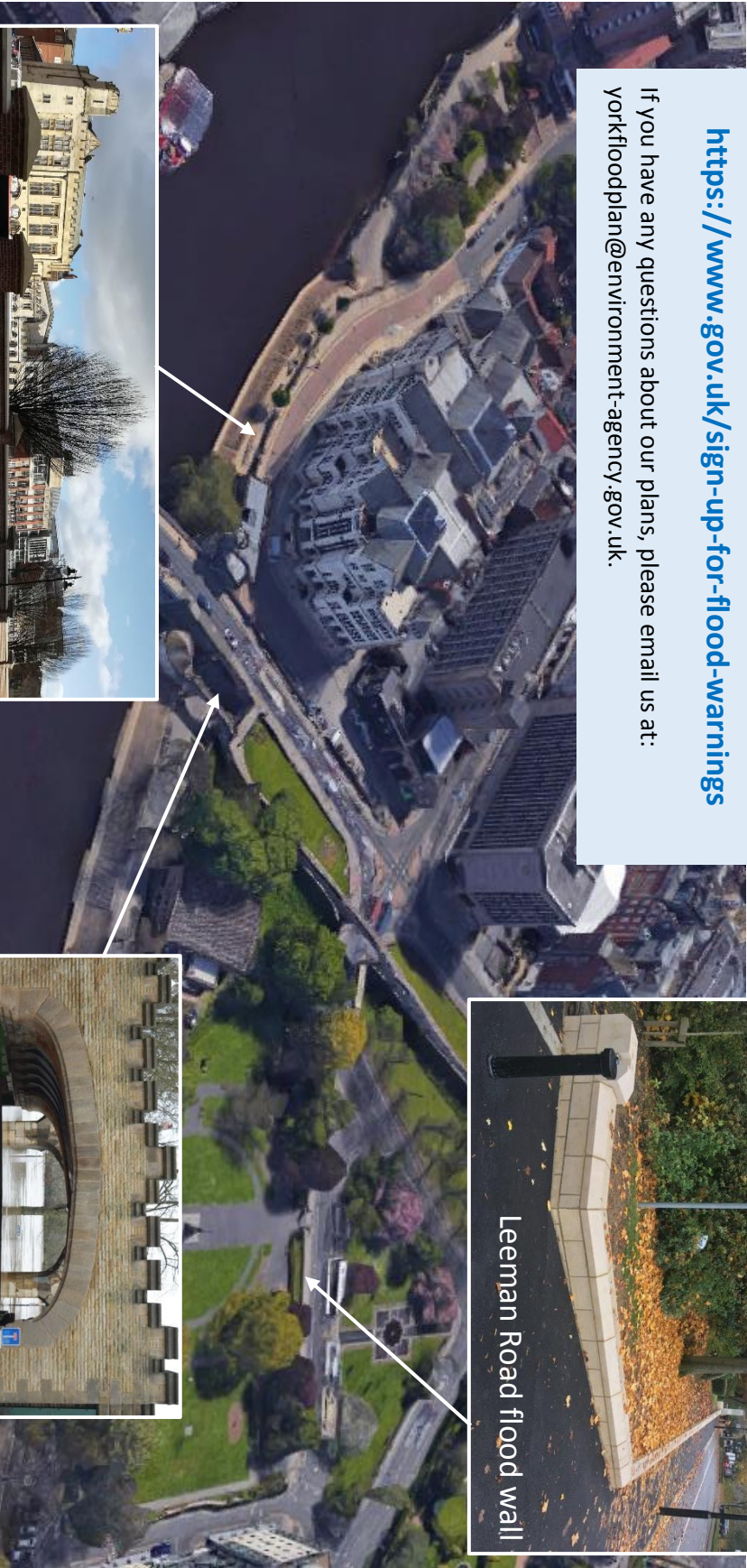


Your next steps

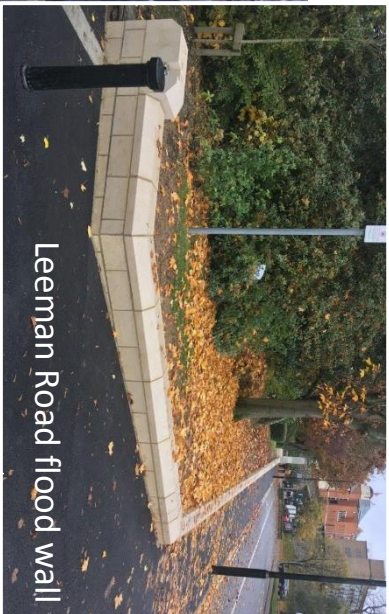
Remember that even homes and businesses which are protected by flood defences are still at risk of flooding. Our free flood warning service provides up-to-date information about flood risk in York straight to your phone or mobile. You can sign up to receive flood alerts and flood warnings at:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

If you have any questions about our plans, please email us at: yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk.



North Street flood wall and gates



Leeman Road flood wall



Lendal Bridge flood gate

- ✉ yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk
- 🏠 The Hub, Wellington Row, York, YO1 6FZ
- 📧 Environment Agency, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PR
- 💻 consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/Yorkshire/yorkfas/
- 📘 @YorkFAS
- 🐦 @EnvAgencyYNE

Get in touch to find out how we're reducing the risk of flooding in York

