

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Newsletter

August 2020

We are working with 9 partners on a major new flood scheme for Oxford, which will reduce flood risk to homes, businesses, and major transport routes into the city. The scheme is designed to provide a long term solution to flooding in Oxford, helping protect the city as flood risk increases with climate change.

The scheme will run through the existing floodplain to the west of Oxford. It will look and behave like a natural river, with new wetland habitat alongside it to create more space for water away from built-up areas.

Oxford Scheme update

A423 bridge replacement

Oxfordshire County Council began the propping work on the A423 Kennington Railway Bridge in July.

Replacement of the A423 Bridge has provided an opportunity to design and build the bridge and the flood scheme together. This allows us to reduce disruption during construction and ensure the best use of public money. The updated design will use open channels instead of culverts to allow the flow of floodwater under the bridge. This will provide a better environment for wildlife and requires less maintenance.

The bridge is at the southern end of the scheme and during a flood, water would need to pass underneath it to re-join the River Thames. This capacity needs to be in place before the scheme is constructed to avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere. We also need to have all approvals, including planning permission and our Compulsory Purchase Order secured.

South Hinksey Archaeology

If you've been walking near South Hinksey, you may have spotted our contractors on site. We are carrying out archaeology surveys in a field near South Hinksey village to check whether the area is suitable for us to use as the main compound for when we construct the scheme.

The archaeology surveys will determine whether there are any historical artefacts in the field. We want to ensure there's no risk of us damaging any artefacts or remains. Once we have finished the investigations, we will remove our equipment from the site and reinstate the fields.



Archaeology trench in South Hinksey

Kendall Copse Ground Investigations

To complement the new A423 bridge replacement, we are reviewing the design of the scheme around Kendall Copse, near Kennington.

From 10 August, we will be digging trial pits and drilling boreholes to understand the ground conditions beneath the site in order to finalise these designs.

Oxford Flood Incident Exercise

To ensure our flood protection plans are well-tested, the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme partners and emergency responders will be practicing their incident response plans on 20 August 2020.



Temporary flood barriers being assembled

The flood response exercise will consist of:

- temporary flood barriers in South Hinksey and Bullstake Close
- pumps to remove flood water along Botley Road

Due to the current Government guidance on public gatherings, we won't be able to invite members of the community to attend.

We will be sharing updates on Twitter and Facebook as the exercise progresses. We will

also share video footage of the temporary barriers and pumps so you can see our field teams in action.

Managing your flood risk

During the summer months, flood risk might be low on your list of priorities, but Environment Agency officers are thinking about it year-round. Throughout the year our operations staff carry out inspections and clear debris to keep main rivers moving.

To report a blockage that could cause flooding call our 24 incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60.

You can also find out what maintenance is planned in your area:

environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/index.html

Stay prepared by signing up for flood alerts and preparing a flood plan: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk>

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or want to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at:

OxfordScheme@environment-agency.gov.uk

You can find our previous newsletters on Oxfordshire County Council's Flood Toolkit website:

<http://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/contacts/alleviation-scheme/>

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