

# Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Reducing flood risk
- Enabling a thriving economy
- Connecting people and the environment

## Newsletter

November 2015

### **We are working in partnership to develop proposals to reduce flood risk in Oxford.**

Our investigations have confirmed that a flood relief channel will bring significant flood relief benefits to Oxford.

We are looking at options to construct new channels or enlarge existing channels in the western floodplain.

If the scheme is approved we plan to start construction in 2018.

### **January 2016 public events**

We will be holding our second series of public events across the Oxford area in January 2016. Please come along to whichever event is most convenient for you.

This is an opportunity to see the options we are considering for the route of a flood relief channel. We would like to hear your views to help us identify the final route.

We will show how we have used and continue to use the information you shared with us at the public events in Summer 2015.

The project team will be there again to answer any questions that you might have about the scheme.

If you can help us to advertise the events, to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend, please email us requesting a copy of our poster to circulate or display.

### **All public events will be open from 2:30pm to 7pm in the following locations:**

- Tuesday 19 January  
Oxford Town Hall, OX1 1BX
- Wednesday 20 January  
Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JE
- Friday 22 January  
South Oxford Community Centre,  
OX1 4RP
- Wednesday 27 January  
Kennington Village Centre, OX1 5PG
- Thursday 28 January  
West Oxford Community Centre,  
OX2 0BT

**No need to book  
Drop in  
Everyone is welcome**

### **Ground investigations**

During September and October we carried out ground investigations work in different locations between Botley Road and Sandford Lock at Kennington. We dug 140 boreholes and trial pits.



Trial pits at Sandford being investigated, taken by Andrew Walmsley

## Ground investigation results

The results of this work have confirmed and improved our knowledge of underlying layers of rock and soil. We have also learnt about groundwater levels and movement of groundwater in the area, these will be critical to the design and appearance of the final channel.

We are continuing to monitor groundwater levels at some sites for the next few months. We are using the results from these and previous ground investigation work in the area to help us identify possible channel routes.

## Preparing for this winter

We want to reassure you that while we are working hard to progress the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, we continue to improve our response to flooding in the short term.

The Environment Agency recently held a training session at their Osney Depot to practise putting up their new temporary defences. These temporary defences could be used to help protect properties in Oxford.

They also have two new incident command vehicles and welfare vehicles. These vehicles allow staff to get information out to flooded communities more quickly and to improve the flow of information to staff in the office to help their decision making.

## What's next?

### Archaeological assessment

We are currently planning what archaeological investigations we need to carry out in the study area in early 2016. We will be doing this alongside Oxford Archaeology, who were present during the ground investigation work.

### Modelling

We are continuing with our detailed river and groundwater modelling work. This is improving our understanding of the existing flooding mechanisms in the area. We will then use this model to test the preferred options after the January 2016 public events.

### Short-listing route and design options

We are continuing to use information from our own investigations and information provided by the public to develop the route options for the scheme. These options are being developed in line with the Green Infrastructure Strategy. We are also working on the landscape and habitat design which will be incorporated into the route options.

### Gaining approval for the scheme

The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme is a major project and needs government approval and security of full funding. This requires us to provide detailed information as the scheme progresses. The approval process is important and will take some time. We are aiming for final approval in 2018 and for construction to begin later that year.

### For more information visit our webpage

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-flood-risk-management-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-flood-risk-management-scheme)

### Or contact us at

[oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### If you missed our public events you can view all the display material here

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/flooding/Oxford%20FAS%20Public%20Consultation%20boards%20-%20Final.pdf](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/flooding/Oxford%20FAS%20Public%20Consultation%20boards%20-%20Final.pdf)