

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Newsletter

August 2017

We are working with local partners on a scheme to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Oxford, as well as to services and major transport routes into the city.

We will be lowering parts of the floodplain and working on some of the existing rivers and streams that run through it, to make more space for water and reduce flood risk to the city. In some areas we will be building new flood walls and embankments.

Public consultation 2017

We held a public consultation in June and July. This was advertised via direct emails, posters throughout Oxford, and using social media. We also held a media event and the story was printed in a variety of local newspapers.

As well as being available online we held sessions where our team were available to help people complete the consultation.



Filling in the online consultation at Oxford Central Library

Consultation results

We are using this feedback to finalise the style of bridges, potential locations of benches and cycle racks, and the content of information boards.

We also asked how people use footpaths, fields and road junctions. Our construction work will be planned to minimise impacts on well-used routes.

Our consultation response document summarises all the responses to the consultation. This is available from the end of August here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/oxford-fas-consultation-2017/>

Environmental survey work ongoing

We are continuing to carry out surveys for our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This helps us to reduce any impacts our work might have and to identify where we can improve the environment in the scheme area. Information from our surveys will be included in our planning submission early next year.

Archaeological investigations

Archaeology is part of the planning requirement for the scheme and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that we need to carry out while we design and plan construction of the scheme.

This work involves digging trenches to allow investigation of a proportion of the scheme area by archaeologists. The trenches will be fenced off during work. Once archaeological inspection has been completed the trenches will be filled in and exposed areas re-seeded with a Natural England approved grass mix.

Investigation trenches are being dug throughout the scheme area and will be focused in areas of archaeological interest.



Example trenches during and after archaeological investigations

We will try to minimise impacts to local people, and we have contacted residents who live in close proximity to the works. Work is due to start on this in mid-August and is expected to continue through to November.

Updated flood models

We have completed modelling of the River Thames and its tributaries from Oxford downstream to Reading. The Environment Agency flood map has recently been updated with this up to date flood risk information, enabling us to make decisions on the most current information.

Check your flood risk online here:

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood/find-out-if-youre-at-risk

Forward look

Using all our ecological, archaeological and ground investigation surveys we will be finalising the exact alignment of the scheme and temporary work areas.

We are working with local partners to secure the remaining funding needed. We are confident that the remaining contributions will be committed to deliver the scheme on time.

We are continuing our engagement, meeting with specific communities and raising awareness of the scheme. This includes a focus on securing a green legacy for the scheme, building on the potential improvements the scheme can bring locally.

To request this newsletter in a different format, please call the Environment Agency on 0370 850 6506.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reducing-flood-risk-in-oxford-and-abingdon>

