

[Press release: Planting the seeds for a flood resilient future](#)

A Sunderland school is more prepared for flooding after a rain garden planter was installed and the school's pupils created a flood plan as part of the Environment Agency's 'Flood Weeks'.

Community Engagement Officer Taryn Al-Mashgari helped the youngsters at Springwell Village Primary School develop a flood plan and 'grab bag' so they are prepared in the event of a flood.

And partners at Northumbrian Water installed a rain planter – which captures and stores rainfall from the school's roof – as part of its Rainwise initiative.

Youngsters at the school helped put flowers into the planter in an event on Friday 23 February and then 'tagged' the school with a flood warden logo designed by a pupil from Hetton Lyons Primary School.

This was done using Rainworks – an invisible spray which will only show the logo when it rains. It will remind pupils during key times to be aware of their flood resilience learning.

Initiative helps schools be prepared for flooding

A workshop held by the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and Northern Powergrid then also took place for parents and local councillors to see what the children have been learning and to see them demonstrate their newly-created flood plan.

It's part of an Environment Agency initiative to help schools across the North East be better prepared for flooding. Taryn works with children in all year groups to help them understand different types of flooding and how it happens.

They learn what to do before and during a flood, and what the flood warning symbols used by the Environment Agency mean. Taryn said:

It's important that younger people understand what flooding is, how it happens and what the different organisations that deal with flooding do.

We also teach them how to prepare for and what to do during a flood in a series of interactive sessions where they design their own flood protection and describe how they would keep their favourite possessions safe.

It's absolutely devastating to be flooded and that's why we are working with schools and our partners to educate our future

generations about what they can do to keep themselves and their valuables safe.



Spreading the word about managing rainfall

Northumbrian Water's Rainwise initiative aims to spread the word about how managing rainfall better can help increase capacity in the sewer network and encourages residents to make small changes around their homes and gardens.

Rain garden planters help reduce the risk of flooding by reducing the amount of water directly entering the sewer network, as well as slowing the amount of water that does.

Northumbrian Water's Project Manager, Chris Bond, said:

The Environment Agency's flood week gave us a real opportunity to work with the school to raise awareness of our Rainwise initiative and how it's important for families to manage rainfall better around their home to help reduce flood risk.

The planter captures rainwater from the roof of the school, which is then absorbed by the soil and plants and helps to take some of the pressure off our sewer network. It's been great working with the children to put in these plants, which builds their knowledge of flooding and creating new natural habitats.

For more information on Rainwise, visit [Northumbrian Water's website](#)

The Environment Agency is urging people to 'Prepare, Act, Survive' by visiting the [Floods Destroy website](#) and do three things to prepare for flooding.

- check your postcode and find out if you are at risk of flooding
- sign-up for free flood warnings if you are at risk
- view and save the 3-point flood plan so you know how to 'Prepare, Act, Survive' in a flood

[News story: Devon dredging and disposal licence suspended](#)

The MMO has suspended a marine licence for maintenance dredging of Exmouth Marina and disposal of related materials at the Sprey Point disposal site.

John Tuckett, Chief Executive Officer said:

"We are aware of concerns about Teignmouth beach and are working with other agencies to look into these.

"As a responsible marine manager we have taken a precautionary approach and suspended a marine licence for maintenance dredging of Exmouth Marina and disposal of related materials at the Sprey Point disposal site. This is until we are clear that materials found on Teignmouth beach are an aesthetic issue only.

"We are confident that an assessment carried out as part of the licence application process and in line with OSPAR guidelines, showed that the material is suitable for disposal at sea."

Further details about the marine licence are available on the [MMO's public register](#) (case reference MLA/2016/00372) and in a previous [update provided by the MMO](#).

[Notice: TF9 3RZ, Mr. Michael Harrison: environmental permit issued](#)

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial

Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Mr. Michael Harrison
- Installation name: Vantage Farm Poultry Unit
- Permit number: EPR/AP3331CA

Notice: Y061 1TU, Allium Helmsley Ltd: environmental permit application advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

Notice: PE11 2BB, Spalding Energy Expansion Limited: environmental permit application advertisement

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