

Ground investigation works start in Tadcaster for flood defences

Press release

Ground investigations have started in Tadcaster to help develop a flood defence scheme to better protect homes from the risk of flooding.



Ground investigation works being undertaken in Tadcaster

The Environment Agency has started ground investigation work in Tadcaster, an important milestone of the project to build a new flood defence scheme for the town.

Environment Agency contractors are drilling boreholes along the river using specialist equipment so that the project team can understand the composition of the ground where new flood defence walls are being proposed. This will ensure that the defences that are constructed are to the right standard.

Work is also being done to strengthen and improve the current defences at four locations to help prevent localised early 'overtopping' of water over the flood banks during a flood. Although this work wouldn't prevent defences being overwhelmed during a large scale flooding event like that seen in February, it will improve the resilience of the defences in these locations ahead of the delivery of the wider flood scheme for the town.

Paul Stockhill, area flood risk manager at the Environment Agency said:

This is an important step so we can gain detailed evidence to support the design of flood defences to better protect Tadcaster from flooding.

The town has experienced devastating floods as recently as February this year, and we are working as fast as we can to develop a scheme which offers the best possible level of flood protection for people and is able to withstand the increasingly extreme weather we are

experiencing as a result of climate change.

Our next step will be to use the information gathered to form some detailed designs which we'll share with the community.

Nigel Adams MP for Selby and Ainsty said:

The flooding earlier this year showed how vital it is that the flood defences in Tadcaster are improved. This was discussed in a meeting earlier this year with the Flood Minister, Rebecca Pow and I am pleased that work has now started on-site. It is especially pleasing that one of the early tasks will be to address the four locations where the flood water first came over the top of the defences earlier this year. The ground investigations will then provide the information required to design the new £11m flood alleviation scheme for the town.

Cllr Kirsty Poskitt at North Yorkshire County Council said:

It's really encouraging to see that the Environment Agency has begun the process of ground investigations on the banks of the river in Tadcaster. It can't be underestimated how important it is for the town to see that things are finally starting to move forward. I am looking forward to continued progress.

The Environment Agency's Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme project team is based in Tadcaster every Tuesday morning from 9:30am until midday at The Ark at Tadcaster Town Council. Please stop in to speak to the team, or they can also be contacted with any questions at TadcasterFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Residents are urged to sign up for free flood warnings to get vital time to save themselves and their possessions from the devastating effects of flooding by visiting www.gov.uk/flood or contacting Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

They can also check their flood risk online at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>.

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