

## [2,000 properties in York now better protected with Foss Barrier upgrade and new flood defences](#)

The newly refurbished Foss Barrier, and completed flood defence work in the city, are being officially opened at an event in York.

The £38 million Environment Agency project to improve the barrier, combined with completed flood defence work in York, better protects 2,000 properties and makes the city more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Following the devastating floods of Boxing Day 2015 when 627 properties flooded in York, the Government provided £45 million funding toward flood defence work in the city in addition to £38 million to upgrade the Foss Barrier to provide better flood protection to properties along the Rivers Ouse and Foss.

Improvement work at the pumping station started in spring 2016, and now that it is complete means the Foss Barrier is now one of the most resilient flood defences in the country.

The project milestone is being marked at an event by the chair of the Environment Agency, Emma Howard Boyd.

### **Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said:**

York is a historic city which is no stranger to the effects of flooding. The upgraded Foss Barrier and flood defence work across the city will make people and businesses more resilient to future climate impacts. York has always managed to prosper through floods from its great rivers and as climate change makes the rest of the world more vulnerable to flooding York's progress is a model.

The Environment Agency's work here continues and with further investments we are upgrading and creating new flood storage areas as well as installing bespoke property level protection to homes and businesses across the city. We are also working with partners upstream to find storage capacity and natural flood management opportunities in the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse catchments.

### **Floods Minister Rebecca Pow said:**

The completion of upgrades to the Foss Barrier is an important day for the people of York. It's part of more than £80 million of government funding for flood defences in the city since the devastating floods on Boxing Day 2015, helping to protect 2,000

homes and businesses from the impacts of climate change.

This is part of significant ongoing investment in flood schemes across Yorkshire and the Humber, with over half a billion pounds invested across the region since 2015 – more than any other part of the country.

The Foss Barrier protects properties by stopping flood water from the River Ouse backing up along the River Foss after heavy rainfall and was originally built in 1987.

The barrier continually protected the city during the floods of 1995, 2000, 2007 and 2012, but following the floods in December 2015 work started to improve it to help adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The upgrade included replacing the old gate and its structure, improvements to the mechanical and electrical equipment needed to control the barrier and installing eight new high-powered pumps, increasing the pumping capacity from 30 to 50 cubic metres per second. The Boxing Day 2015 floods saw 40 cubic metres of water a second travelling down the Foss.

The work has also included an upgrade to the pumping station's electricity supply and new back-up generators meaning they can operate during a power failure.

There are 18 areas of work across the city where flood defences are being constructed, including installing property level flood protection such as flood doors, temporary barriers, pumps and valves, which reduce the chance of flood water getting into a property.

The upgrade of the Foss Barrier, completion of new flood defences around Memorial Gardens and North St, Lower Bootham, Marygate, the village of Bishopthorpe, and the roll out of flood resilience products means that over 2,000 properties are now better protected against the risk of flooding. Many more are to be protected through the year with the completion of flood defence work near Clementhorpe.

With the majority of inner-city work near completion, attention will focus on major construction work on flood schemes at Clifton and Rawcliffe and the Foss flood storage area which will hold up to a million cubic metres of water during severe weather and protect a further 630 properties.

For more information on the York Flood Alleviation Scheme and Foss Barrier: [York Flood Alleviation Scheme \(FAS\) Information page](#)

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# Publication of the ACMD report into the availability and use of naloxone

News story

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has published a report reviewing the availability and use of naloxone in the UK, a drug used to reverse opioid overdose.



The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has published a report reviewing the availability and use of naloxone in the UK, a drug used to reverse opioid overdose.

The advice follows a self-commission by ACMD members in 2019 after a small rise in opioid overdose-related deaths.

The report outlines evidence that administration of naloxone leads to a reduction in these types of deaths, however it also concluded that more work is needed to increase the availability and use of this drug.

The report has made the following recommendations to government:

1. Improve the quality of data on take-home naloxone and ensure local authority commissioners monitor how it is provided by service providers.
2. Further research should be undertaken to see how those at risk of overdose can more easily access take-home naloxone.
3. Good examples of partnership working cited in the report should be used to model naloxone programmes across the UK.
4. Prison services should ensure people being released from prison who are at high-risk of overdosing have access to take-home naloxone.

5. Additional training for police in the holding and administration of naloxone should be provided and police services should register to gain required exemptions to supply take-home naloxone.
6. Hospitals, mental health trusts and ambulance services should deliver take-home naloxone and training to those at risk of overdose. Guidance should be updated to include appropriate recommendations on naloxone provision.
7. There should be arrangements across the UK which allow community pharmacies to deliver take-home naloxone and intervention on managing opioid overdoses.

The ACMD has previously reviewed the use and availability of naloxone in 2012 and recommended it to be made more widely available.

In 2015 the government introduced changes to the Human Medicines Amendment Regulations (2012) which expanded the availability of naloxone in the UK, but this report hopes to encourage a further increase in naloxone availability and use.

ACMD chair Professor Owen Bowden-Jones said:

We are pleased to share today our findings on take-home naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving medication and it is crucial that it is easily available to people at risk. Only a national, cross-sector approach will achieve this.

We look forward to the Government response to this report and our findings.

Read the [ACMD naloxone review](#).

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## [New website launched to capture Severn Valley flood data](#)

Press release

The Environment Agency has launched a new crowd reporter website to enable

Severn Valley residents to share details of flooding in their communities.



The River Severn

The Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS) Crowd Reporter is a crowd-sourced mapping tool which can be used to submit descriptions and pictures of localised flooding.

Residents are encouraged to use the tool to help the Environment Agency build a detailed picture of where flooding occurs across the Severn Valley catchment. Users can also submit ideas for future projects, locations of local or historical importance and any other general comments they have about the project.

The data will be used as part of the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme which aims to reduce flooding to communities along the River Severn.

Users can submit information, photographs or drawings by clicking on a location and entering a description. There is no limit to the number of submissions that can be made or when the flood took place.

Adam Lines, Environment Agency Place Manager for Shropshire said:

Local people who live in the community are best placed to know where flooding occurs and any local concerns or opportunities, which is why we are asking for their help by sharing information that will help us to design nature-based flood management schemes to tackle flooding.

The tool is a quick and easy way for us to collect data from the community and use it to build into the Severn Valley Water Management Project.

The Crowd Reporter can be accessed here: [Crowd Reporter](#)

Anyone who does not have access to the internet is still welcome to send in information by post to:

National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
S60 1BY  
United Kingdom

or call the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506

- More information on the Severn Valley Water Management scheme is available [online](#)
- You can check your flood risk, sign up for free flood warnings and keep up to date with the latest situation at [GOV.UK](#), call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or follow @EnvAgencyMids on Twitter for the latest flood updates.

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## [UK envoy leads Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration in Kuala Lumpur](#)

The guest of honour representing the Malaysian Government was Yang Berhormat Tengku Zafrul bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Finance.

The event kicked off with the minister leading a toast to the good health and wellbeing of Her Majesty The Queen. Hay then reciprocated with a toast to DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

In his speech, Hay paid tribute to The Queen and her dedication to serving the people of the UK and the Commonwealth. He said,

The most important facet of Her Majesty's reign is her sense of duty and tireless devotion to a life of service.

Through the seven decades of her reign, The Queen has been an important source of stability and strength for the UK. She has transcended politics, change of government, wars, and pandemic.

Hay also spoke about the close relationship between Her Majesty's Government with the Malaysian Government. He said:

The UK and Malaysia have a deep shared history, which today has flourished into a modern day partnership where both countries are

working collaboratively across areas of mutual interest.

According to Hay, the UK has contributed a total of £15 million in the last three years alone to implement economic partnership programmes with Malaysia. Bilateral trade between the UK and Malaysia totalled over £5 billion with the UK seeking to grow priority sectors like education, technology, smart cities and healthcare.

In his speech, Hay also used the Malay proverb “Berat sama dipikul, ringan sama dijinjing” and voiced support to Ukrainian Ambassador Olexander Nechytaylo and the Ukrainian people at a time when Ukraine is defending against Russia’s aggression.

The reception was attended by over 800 guests including members of the Malaysian royalty; senior representatives from ministries, youth and non-government organisations, diplomatic corps and business community. Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong also graced the event. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong met The Queen at Buckingham Palace during a special visit to the UK in 2019.

Guests who attended the reception were treated to a showcase of British culture and pageantry, the best of British food, performances by the Great British Circus, as well as a selection of hit songs in the UK spanning 70 years of The Queen’s reign. Also on display were portraits of The Queen by Malaysian pencil artiste Hakim Abdullah and digital artwork by British artist Rachel Gray.

Hay expressed gratitude to numerous sponsors, especially Sime Darby Properties, YTL Corporation, Eco World, HSBC, AirAsia, JW Marriott, as well as a host of other partners who supported the event.

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## [UK’s Middle East and North Africa Director ends visit to Lebanon](#)

World news story

Mr Hickey met with senior Lebanese officials, local experts, international partners and visited UK funded projects supporting the most vulnerable in Lebanon.



Mr. Hickey, accompanied by British Ambassador to Lebanon Dr Ian Collard, held meetings with Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Caretaker Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib. Discussions focused on the latest developments in the country and the UK's support to the people of Lebanon. At Hona Beirut Café an initiative led by March Lebanon NGO funded by the UK's Conflict Stability and Security Fund, he met with a group of young people from marginalised areas in Tripoli and Beirut. The programme has helped transform their futures to become agents of change, delivering community service projects through skills training, professional capacity building and psycho-social support. Mr Hickey also met with senior, NGO and donor development and humanitarian partners working on Lebanon for an overview of the severe challenges the country is going through and the impact on vulnerable communities in particular. And he had a discussion with former recipients of the UK Government's prestigious Chevening scholarships programme.

At the end of his visit, Mr Hickey said:

I come at a time when Lebanon is going through an unprecedented economic crisis that is hugely impacting its people. What needs to be done is clear. Lebanon's leadership must act immediately by implementing urgent reforms including the conclusion of an IMF deal. The UK stands ready to help but first we must see actions by Lebanon's politicians. Without that, Lebanon cannot stand on its feet and regain the trust of the international community.

I also had the privilege of meeting a group of our Chevening Alumni who are doing amazing work across different fields for the good of their country. At Hona Beirut Café, it was rewarding to hear the positive impact our project is having on the lives of young people and to hear their concerns, aspirations and hopes for a better Lebanon.

The UK will continue to be a friend to the people of Lebanon, and particularly its most vulnerable, including refugees.