

Flood defence work starting across York

The Environment Agency has reached another major milestone in the development of York Flood Alleviation Scheme as construction starts in four areas of the city.

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- New larger floodgate to be installed under Lendal Bridge to better protect businesses and roads in the city
- New flood wall being built in Bishopthorpe to reduce flood risk in village
- Preparation work also starting in Marygate area (including Museum Gardens), as well as plans for work on Terry Avenue (by Rowntree Park)

Work is starting this week under Lendal Bridge on Wellington Row to prepare for the installation of a new, larger floodgate and construction has begun on Chantry Lane in Bishopthorpe.

Preparations are also being made for the start of work in the Marygate area and Museum Gardens, as well as on Terry Avenue near Rowntree Park.

Lendal Bridge

The Lendal Bridge floodgate installation is the last stage of the Environment Agency's work from Ouse Bridge to Scarborough Bridge on the station side, which has included raising defences along North Street Gardens and Memorial Gardens.

This section of the flood scheme better protects 39 homes and businesses from flooding, as well as access roads.

Bishopthorpe

The Bishopthorpe work includes the construction of a 180 metre-long flood wall running along Chantry Lane and the boundary of the palace grounds, incorporating a six metre-deep steel barrier underground; a floodgate across the bottom of Chantry Lane and water flow mechanism.

This reduces the risk of flooding to 117 properties, as well as Main Street, therefore helping to protect access for residents in the south of the village.

Marygate

Elsewhere in the city, a site compound will be built in Marygate car park from Monday 10 May to facilitate the raising of the flood embankment in the Museum Gardens, as well as increasing the height of the flood walls and gates between Scarborough Bridge and Museum Gardens, including installing glass panels on top of the defences along Earlsborough Terrace.

The work will reduce the risk of flooding to 57 homes and businesses in the Marygate area.

Clementhorpe

A site compound was established on the playing field in Rowntree Park last month to enable construction work to take place on the Clementhorpe section of the scheme, between Skeldergate Bridge and Millennium Bridge.

Construction on Terry Avenue will include complex underground work, with a 240 metre-long and six metre-deep semi-permeable barrier being installed in order to prevent flood waters seeping through the ground and undermining overground flood defences. This work will require large machinery to be used that requires appropriate safety precautions to be taken.

To ensure the safety of the public, a section of Terry Avenue will be closed from Skeldergate Bridge to just before the entrance to Dukes Wharf. The closure date is yet to be confirmed by the Environment Agency's contractors but is currently expected to start on Monday 17 May and take 12 months.

Once completed, the Clementhorpe section of the flood scheme will provide improved flood protection to 135 homes and businesses.

The Environment Agency has worked with City of York Council and the community to create suitable diversion routes. The routes were reviewed and approved by an independent road safety auditor, before being submitted to the council for their review and approval.

Ben Hughes, director of the Environment Agency's York Flood Alleviation Scheme, said:

This is a big month for the York Flood Alleviation Scheme. We're very pleased that further work is starting to reduce the risk of flood to homes and businesses, as well as infrastructure. It's great news for the city.

We understand that parts of the work could be inconvenient for some people, including walkers and cyclists who use the riverside route, but the York Flood Alleviation Scheme essential for long-term resilience of the city, which, as we're all too aware, is prone to flooding.

In total, the Environment Agency is investing £45 million in the York Flood

Alleviation Scheme to better protect 2,000 homes and businesses in the city from flooding.

More information about [York Flood Alleviation Scheme](#).

More information about [flooding and to sign up to receive free flood warnings](#).

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Chancellor visits leading meal kit provider to discuss future of the economy

The Chancellor of the Exchequer visited a leading meal kit provider in London today (7 May) to meet staff and discuss the future of the economy.

Chancellor visits leading meal kit provider to discuss future of the economy

- Chancellor visits Gousto in London to meet staff and discuss future of the economy
- Gousto are creating 1,000 new jobs this year
- government's £350 billion Plan for Jobs continues to support businesses as they get back on their feet

Rishi Sunak visited Gousto, who after growing significantly over recent

years, have thrived over the past 12 months and are hiring 1,000 new staff this year.

To expand their operations, the innovative firm are taking advantage of the super-deduction, Britain's biggest ever 2-year business tax cut, and one of the government's flagship schemes announced at Budget as part of the Chancellor's Plan for Jobs to get the UK's economy roaring again.

Other schemes that have been essential in helping other businesses across the UK to bridge the crisis include the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, business grants, government backed loans, business rates relief and tax deferrals.

On the visit, the Chancellor was welcomed by Shaun Pearce, chief technology officer at Gousto, and went on a tour of their headquarters, visiting their creative studio before helping the team to prepare meals in their development kitchen.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

It's inspiring to hear stories of businesses that have succeeded over the past year – with their innovation, energy and grit, they remind us of the drive that defines British business.

For many businesses though the past year has been incredibly difficult, which is why we have spent over £350bn to bridge them through the crisis.

As the economy reopens, we tread optimistically but cautiously forward, with our Plan for Jobs remaining on hand to give businesses and people the support they need to get back on their feet.

Timo Boldt, Founder and CEO at Gousto, said:

In 2021, Gousto will double its workforce to 2,000 employees as we prepare to open 2 more fulfilment centres over the next two years, in response to continued demand for our recipe boxes.

We welcomed the discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer today, who recognises the role we've played in serving the nation through the pandemic and how we will help the future of the UK economy as a tech leader creating thousands of jobs.

The more we grow, the greater the positive impact we can have on people and the planet, as we strive towards our mission to become the most-loved way to eat dinner.

Founded in 2012, Gousto pioneered the recipe box offering in the UK and sold

over 25 million meals in Q1 of 2021 (compared to 10 million meals in Q1 2020) through its subscription service – three meals a second.

Further information