

## [Press release: Come along to flood scheme update at Forge Mill Farm](#)

If you are planning a visit to Sandwell Valley Park, Forge Mill Farm or RSPB on Thursday 9 August, why not come and talk to Environment Agency staff about the Perry Barr and Witton Flood Risk Management Scheme?

Environment Agency staff will be setting up a stall near the Forge Mill Farm car park on 9 August, from 1pm to 4pm, to talk to local residents and visitors about the progress being made.

The completed scheme will reduce flood risk for 1,400 properties in the area. Phase 2 of the scheme, will provide additional flood storage at Forge Mill in Sandwell Valley, which is upstream of Perry Barr and Witton, and will control the flow of flood water downstream. Park users will have seen construction happening around Forge Mill Farm, at the golf course and along the river side.

Rachel Kelly, Environment Agency Project Manager for the Scheme said:

This is a great opportunity to find out more about what we've been doing so far and we have planned for the coming months. Come and hear more about the scheme, including an additional river crossing providing a circular walking route and environmental enhancements, such as the creation of wet woodland, crassula management (in conjunction with RSPB), tree planting, tree and hedgerow management and creation of new habitats in areas where we are taking material to build the embankment.

The main aspects of this phase include the building of a new embankment, installation of the river outlet and temporarily re-diverting the river.

The scheme, costing just over £32 million, is part of the Environment Agency's programme of £2.6 billion investment into flood defences across the country. The scheme was made possible through funding contributions from Birmingham City Council, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Arts Council and crowd-funding.

The first phase of the scheme was completed in spring 2017. Following improvements to the existing upstream flood storage area at Perry Hall Playing Fields, Phase 1 delivered improvement works in Perry Barr and Witton, including wall repairs and wall raising along Brookvale Road, construction of walls along Tame Road and installation of a flood gate at the Atlas Industrial Estate entrance. These measures in isolation do not provide a big enough reduction in flood risk, although they did successfully prevent properties from flooding in May 2018, so Phase 2 will provide the necessary flood water storage during a major flood, such as that experienced in 2007.

Along with flood defences and flood management schemes, knowing your flood risk is also important when protecting your family and property from flooding. People can check their risk and register to receive free flood warnings by visiting our page on [preparing for flooding](#) or calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

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## **National Statistics: Historical statistic notices on UK egg production and prices, 2018**

This publication gives previously published copies of the quarterly National Statistics publication on egg production, usage and prices that showed figures for 2018. Each publication gives the figures available at that time. The figures are subject to revision each quarter as new information becomes available.

The latest publication and accompanying data sets can be found [here](#).

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## **Post-Brexit discussions in London**

Staff from SRUC's Rural Policy Centre recently spent a day in London talking to politicians and policy makers about post-Brexit challenges in Scotland.

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## **Collection: Nitrate vulnerable zones**

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. They include about 55% of land in England.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) reviews NVZs

every 4 years to account for changes in nitrate concentrations.

This collection of guidance explains:

- how to find out if your land is in an NVZ
  - transitional arrangements until 31 July 2019 (if your land was in an NVZ for the first time in 2017)
  - NVZ rules
  - NVZ and cross-compliance requirements
  - how to prevent water pollution from your farm
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## [Detailed guide: Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designations 2017 to 2020: rules and appeals](#)

### **Find out if your land is in an NVZ**

Use the [interactive map](#) to find out if your land is in an NVZ.

Your farm may be completely or partly in an NVZ. NVZ boundaries are drawn around whole fields, so there are no fields that are only partly in an NVZ.

Restrictions apply to each field that's in an NVZ.

Contact the [Environment Agency](#) if you have difficulty checking online or need a printed map.

### **Outcome of appeals**

You can no longer appeal a decision to include land in an NVZ as part of the 2017 to 2020 designation process. The appeals process has finished and some land is no longer in an NVZ.

If your appeal was successful, you must still take steps to [prevent water pollution](#).

### **Transitional arrangements**

If your land was in an NVZ for the first time in 2017, you did not have to comply with NVZ rules straight away. The rules are being phased in from 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2019.

These transitional arrangements meant you did not have to comply with any NVZ legal requirements until 1 January 2018.

These arrangements also mean you have until 31 July 2019 to comply with some of the rules on:

- [storing slurry and poultry manure](#)
- [spreading manufactured fertiliser](#)
- [equipment you can use to spread slurry](#)
- [spreading some types of organic manure](#)
- [separating slurry](#)

See the [guide to cross compliance in England 2018](#) for details of how these rules are being phased in. You'll find the guidance you need under SMR 1: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) on pages 39 to 48.

## **Contact the Farming Advice Service (FAS)**

Contact [FAS](#) for information about using nitrogen fertilisers and manures in NVZs, and other cross compliance requirements.