

Plans for York flood storage area approved by planning chiefs

Plans to create a flood storage area on the River Foss north of Strensall have now been given the green light by two local authority planning committees.

Work is expected to start next spring on the new flood storage area to better protect 490 vulnerable homes between Strensall and The Groves area of York from flooding.

The scheme, which falls within the boundary of two councils, has been approved by Ryedale District Council's planners this week – and was given the go ahead by City of York Council last month (November).

Located in the rural area 2km north of Strensall, the scheme will also reduce flood risk to key transport routes and result in benefits to the environment including tree planting, wetland creation and improvements to river bank habitat.

The purpose of the storage area is to help reduce peak flows in the river, therefore reducing flooding downstream. During heavy rain, the structure fills with water, temporarily holding back flood water and reducing the flood risk to properties along the Foss Corridor, towards York city centre. Once the flood has passed the water in the storage area will subside.

For the vast majority of time the structure will not need to be used in this way which means that farming practices will be able to continue in the area.

Project manager Richard Lever, from the Environment Agency, said:

We are delighted that Ryedale District Council has approved our plans this week to create a Flood Storage Area on the River Foss which will reduce flood risk for 490 properties as part of the York Flood Alleviation Scheme.

In addition to flood risk benefits, the scheme will also have environmental benefits such as the growth of valuable wetland habitat, creating space for local wildlife and improving water quality downstream.

These areas are not like reservoirs and do not store water permanently. They are designed to be dry in normal weather conditions and only fill up for short periods during large flood events.

Unlike other physical flood defences, a flood storage area can be built at some distance from the communities they protect and therefore have less impact than building formal defences.

During a flood event, the level of the River Foss can rise rapidly exposing properties, roads and land to the risk of severe flooding. This is likely to increase with more extreme weather conditions predicted due to climate change. Currently there are no flood defences along the Foss Corridor and a flood storage area is the only viable option.

Out of all the projects included in the Yorks Flood Alleviation Scheme, this proposal will deliver the largest benefits in terms of numbers of properties protected.

Mr Lever said:

As well as reducing flood risk, the storage area will also have environmental benefits. This scheme will facilitate the growth of valuable wetland habitat, create space for local wildlife and help improve water quality downstream.

Materials for building the embankment for the storage area will be taken from within the site, creating pits which fill with water and act as permanent shallow ponds.

Discussions about the proposals have been held at parish council meetings, public events and with landowners, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the Foss Internal Drainage Board and Natural England.

Following the severe flooding in York in Dec 2015, where over 600 properties were flooded, central Government committed £45m to fund projects to better protect properties in the city.

Environment Agency flood schemes protected almost 130,000 properties during the winter 2019/20 flooding, even though water levels were higher in some places than the floods of 2007 when 55,000 properties flooded.

Since 2015, the Government has invested £496m flood defences in Yorkshire – more than any other region – better protecting more than 66,000 properties

For more information about York's Flood Alleviation Scheme [visit:](#)

Make sure you are prepared for a flood event and find out if you are at risk [visit:](#)

RFEA and TechVets are bridging the gap for veterans entering cyber and technology industry

News story

The Forces Employment Charity (RFEA) is launching a new partnership with TechVets, an organisation dedicated to building a bridge for veterans into cyber security and the technology sector.



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Advancements in technology and the evolving cyber threat landscape means that the global cyber security market is projected to reach £210-billion by 2026, creating vast job opportunities for veterans and service leavers.

The RFEA and TechVets partnership aims to combat underemployment and unemployment within the veteran community by creating extensive free upskilling and job opportunities for 'tech-curious' service leavers and veterans. Through its unique offering of networking, mentoring, signposting and training services, via the new TechVets Academy platform, the blended and flexible learning pathways enable the user to choose the pathway that is best for them.

Read more about [TechVets and the partnership with RFEA](#)

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Supporting countries on the frontline of climate change

Thank you very much and good afternoon everyone. And thank you particularly to His Excellency the Honourable Kauea Natano; Dame Meg Taylor; and the Pacific Island Forum Leaders, for inviting me to speak.

The message coming from regions like the Pacific on climate change has a moral urgency and the world cannot ignore it.

I hear what you say. That climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of your people. And I am committed to working with you, throughout my COP Presidency. To make sure that your voices are heard. To address the issues that matter most to you. And to find practical solutions.

I commend the leadership your region has shown on climate change. Which is reflected in the Kainaki II Declaration, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

And despite contributing only a fraction of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, many of you are coming forward with updates to your NDCs.

You are setting a powerful example and encouraging countries around the world to raise their ambition. On mitigation, on adaptation and on finance.

Last week, the United Kingdom announced its NDC. Committing to cut our emissions by at least 68% by 2030, which keeps us on the pathway to our 2050 Net Zero commitment.

Soon we will be submitting our first Adaptation Communication.

And more leaders will announce commitments at the Climate Ambition Summit, which the UK is hosting tomorrow, with the UN and France and in partnership with Italy and Chile.

And the Summit builds on events that have taken place across the world.

From the CARICOM Moment of Ambition Roundtable that the UK is co-hosting with Caribbean partners today.

To this "Kainaki II to COP26" Roundtable.

I would like to thank all those of you who are making announcements at the Summit tomorrow.

And also those who have said they will announce new commitments in the coming months.

Such targets are absolutely vital. But alongside them, we must drive

practical solutions for reducing emissions. By working together, we can make progress faster.

So our COP26 campaigns are focusing attention on five critical areas: transport; energy; nature-based solutions; adaptation and resilience; and finance.

And we are highlighting adaptation as a priority and encouraging action. We've recently appointed a new international champion for adaptation and resilience, Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

Anne-Marie will help to lead our drive forward towards global ambition and action.

And it's by supporting countries on the frontline of climate change that we will be able to help the adaptation to its impacts and build resilience.

We're also working to increase public and private finance, urging donor countries to meet the \$100 billion commitment. And to go beyond it.

Leading by example, the UK is doubling its international climate finance commitment to £11.6 billion over the next five years.

We're also working to make public finance more accessible.

And to get more money for adaptation. We're working with multilateral development banks, investors, and others.

And I know that this approach is shared by Australia and New Zealand., and I'm committed to our working closely together.

I have heard this forum's call on averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage.

And over the next year I want to increase our understanding of all the issues that matter to you. And how they can be addressed.

And this includes listening to your views on how best the Kainaki II recommendations can be reflected in the outcomes of COP26.

So we will be increasing our engagement with the Pacific.

In the new year, we'll be holding events to discuss the issues that matter to vulnerable countries.

And we will also ensure that your priorities are heard at the G7 and the G20. And, of course, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting next year.

Because I am determined to amplify the voices of climate vulnerable countries and put them at the heart of the COP26 process.

So that together, we unleash the full potential of the Paris Agreement in Glasgow. And by doing so build a brighter and more sustainable future for us all.

Thank you.

[Correspondence between Rt Hon Ed Davey MP and Lord Evans, Chair CSPL](#)

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[A Christmas stocking gives North East fish numbers a boost](#)

Press release

The Environment Agency has released thousands of fish bred at its national fish farm into North East rivers and stillwaters



The Environment Agency's Natalie Wallace releases fish into Dissington Pond

The Environment Agency's festive fish release has seen more than 26,000 fish released into rivers and stillwaters in Northumberland, County Durham and Teesside.

All the fish were reared at the Environment Agency's national fish farm near Calverton, Nottinghamshire, using funding from rod licence sales.

The work is part of the Environment Agency's ongoing plan to develop, restore and create fisheries in the region to encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy angling safely.

Some of the fish released into Dissington Pond.

'Very important aspect of our work'

Paul Frear, Fisheries Officer for the Environment Agency in the North East, said: "

Restoration and the creation of new fisheries is a very important aspect of our work. This past week has seen more than 26,000 fish released. We hope it encourages more people to get out and enjoy fishing on the North East's beautiful waters!

We work closely with our partners to protect and enhance our fisheries. Our teams are on the ground responding to pollution incidents, working to improve habitats and water quality, and removing barriers to fish migration.

The Environment Agency's Paul Frear releases fish into Willowgarth Pond.

The Environment Agency released:

- 1,500 chub and 2,000 barbel into the River Tees at Low Coniscliffe near Darlington.
- 1,500 chub, 2,000 barbel and 2,000 dace into the River Wear at The Sands, near Durham city centre.
- 2,000 chub, 1,000 barbel and 2,000 dace into the River Skerne split between Newton Aycliffe and Beaumont Hill, near Darlington.
- 2,000 dace into Clow Beck, south of Darlington.
- 1,000 bream and 500 rudd at Lockwood Beck, which is just south of Guisborough
- 9,000 fish – roach, bream, tench, rudd and crucian carp – released into stillwaters at Dissington Pond near Ponteland, Northumberland, Westgate Pond near Yarm, and Willowgarth pond near Croft-on-Tees.

The Environment Agency releases fish into waterways annually. Fisheries officers carry out fish stocking using data from national fish surveys to identify where there are problems with poor breeding and survival, as well as supporting angling clubs to boost local fishing spots.

The Environment Agency has set a target to get 1 million people fishing by 2025.

Anyone fishing must abide by current government coronavirus restrictions in their local area to keep themselves and those around them safe.

All rod licence income is used to fund work to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries. You can [buy your fishing licence online](#)

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