

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Newsletter

June 2016

We are working in partnership to develop proposals to reduce flood risk in Oxford

Our investigations have confirmed that a flood relief channel will bring significant flood relief benefits to Oxford. We have analysed various options to construct new channels or enlarge existing channels in the floodplain and have determined the best scheme to achieve our objectives.

We will be sharing details of the scheme at The Assembly Room, Oxford Town Hall on Tuesday 28 June from 2-8pm, you are welcome to drop-in. You can also access the information on our website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-flood-risk-management-scheme/oxford-and-abingdon-reducing-flood-risk

Or on our new Facebook page: www.facebook.com/oxfordscheme/

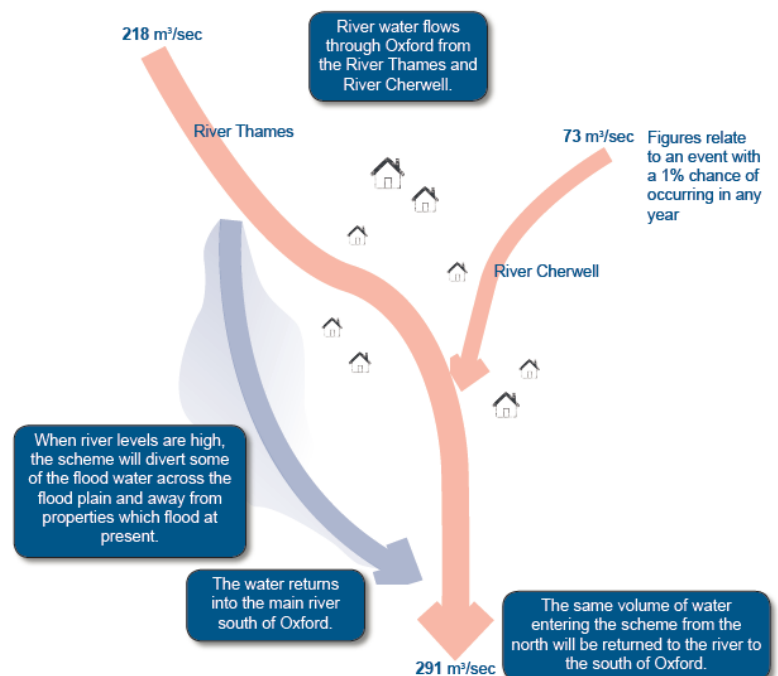
Analysis of the route options

Earlier this year we held a consultation on the options for the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. We ran this online and held 5 public events which almost 900 people attended. We used your comments to help shape the route for the scheme.

We used a multi-criteria analysis to rank the options in order of preference, considering economic, social, technical, environmental and institutional factors. Based on this, we have now determined the best scheme.

The scheme

The scheme runs from North of Botley Road down to Munday's Bridge. We originally thought the scheme would need to extend further, down to Sandford, as well as including works at Weirs Mill Stream. However, our investigations have shown that there are better ways to reduce flood risk, which avoid any work to the Sandford area or any permanent disruption to the residential moorings at Weirs Mill. The scheme will work by diverting flood water across the open flood plain and away from properties which flood at present.



How could the scheme benefit you?

As well as reducing flood risk to homes, businesses and transport networks across Oxford, the scheme will have wider benefits to the city and its communities.

- Flooding is less likely to cause a power cut, disrupt water supplies or affect internet connections
- Flooding is less likely to disrupt bus and train services
- Schools and hospitals will be more likely to stay open during a flood
- There will be more opportunities to interact with the river environment, such as fishing, walking and cycling
- There will be more cycle routes into the city
- The natural environment of the river will be better, with improved natural habitats which will support more wildlife

Downstream communities

We are aware that communities immediately downstream of Oxford are interested in the scheme and what effect it could have on them.

We are working closely with these communities to understand their concerns and to explain how the scheme will be designed to ensure flood risk to communities downstream will not be increased.

We have held a series of focus groups with representatives from a number of communities downstream of the scheme area. We are currently working through the feedback from these focus groups to help us plan our wider engagement with downstream communities later in the year.

Please ensure you are signed up to our mailing list to receive updates on our future work with downstream communities.

What's next?

Designing the channel

The design has two phases: outline and detailed. At outline stage, the fundamental engineering behind the scheme must be agreed. At detailed design, we add detail about the scheme and how it will be built.

Funding and materials management

We continue to work with our partners to find the remaining funding required to construct the scheme. We are also working on arrangements for removing and reusing construction materials, as well as looking at how the channel will be maintained after construction.

Your next opportunity to influence

During the detailed design stage we will hold our next public consultation, which will be your opportunity to influence how the final channel and surrounding area will look. We expect to be at this stage by Spring 2017.

Keep updated on the scheme

Find further information including videos of the scheme route on our new Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/oxfordscheme

You can also visit our website www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-flood-risk-management-scheme/oxford-and-abingdon-reducing-flood-risk

Follow @BarryRussellEA on Twitter

Or contact us at oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk to be added to our mailing list.

