

# Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Newsletter

January 2020

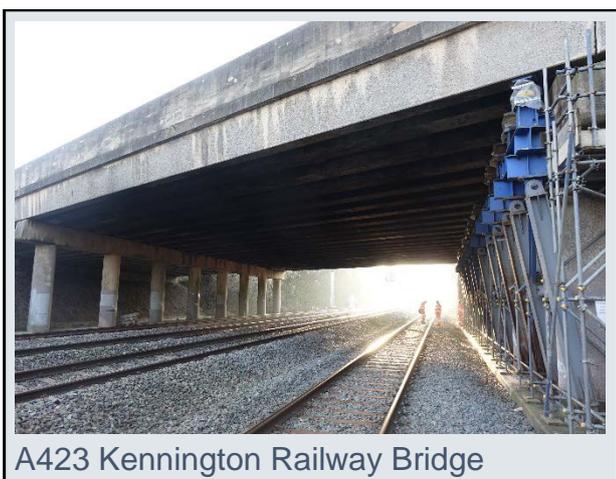
We are working with 9 partners on a major new flood scheme for Oxford, which will reduce flood risk to homes, businesses, and major transport routes into the city. The scheme is designed to provide a long term solution to flooding in Oxford, helping protect the city as flood risk increases with climate change.

The scheme will run through the existing floodplain to the west of Oxford. It will look and behave like a natural river, with new wetland habitat alongside it to create more space for water away from built-up areas.

## Oxford Scheme update

We're dedicated to bringing the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme to the city. Designed to help protect Oxford from flooding for many decades to come, we're ensuring the scheme will be built in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The scheme will carry floodwater away from built-up areas and under the A423 Kennington railway bridge to re-join the River Thames. Last year Oxfordshire County Council found the Kennington railway bridge needed to be replaced, due to deterioration in its structure. We've been working closely together with the council to coordinate both projects. Replacing the bridge provides a new opportunity for it to be designed for its role in the flood scheme.



A423 Kennington Railway Bridge

Building the flood scheme and the replacement bridge at the same time will ensure best use of public money and minimise any disruption.

Once Oxfordshire County Council confirm timescales for the design and construction of the bridge, we'll have revised construction dates for the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme.

## Recent flooding



Flooding in Oxford in November 2019

River levels in Oxford were high during November and December. Staff at the Environment Agency have been continuously monitoring these conditions and reviewing whether temporary defences need to be put up. Our operational staff have been visiting affected areas, carrying out inspections and clearing debris where needed.

Well tested flood protection plans are in place for Oxford. These include temporary flood defences in Osney, South Hinksey, and along Abingdon Road and Vicarage Lane, and pumps to remove flood water on the Botley Road.

We continue to prepare for possible flooding over the winter period and encourage you to check your own flood risk and sign up for Environment Agency flood alerts.

## Would you know what to do in a flood?



**FLOOD  
ALERT**

**PREPARE**

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk](http://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk)



**FLOOD  
WARNING**

**ACT**

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE  
FLOOD  
WARNING**

**SURVIVE**

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

Visit: [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood](http://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood)

### Know how to Prepare. Act. Survive.

There are some simple things you can do to prepare for flooding. Knowing what to do in a flood could help keep you and your family safe, and save you thousands of pounds in damages and disruption.

To find out if you are at risk and for more information visit the “what to do in a flood” page on GOV.UK.

### Flooding to homes – facts and figures

- The worst flood to hit Oxford in living memory was in 1947. Severe floods have since occurred in 2007 and 2013/14.
- The average cost of flood damage to a home is £30,000.
- Floods in Oxford are slow to arrive and slow to leave. Properties can remain flooded for days or weeks.
- If you are flooded, you are likely to be out of your home for an average of 5 months.

### Driving through flood water – facts and figures

Just 30cm of moving water can float an average family-sized car – it’s even less for smaller cars.

- Driving through flood water is the number one cause of death during flooding.
- Over three-quarters of cars that are rescued from flood water have to be written off.
- Just one egg-cupful of water sucked into your engine will wreck it.

## Keep updated on the scheme – and please share this newsletter



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