



Kirkstall - city centre

Information sheet

Upper section of the proposed Leeds scheme

Between Kirkstall to Woodlesford, Leeds is at risk of flooding from the River Aire.

This information sheet explains what we propose to do to reduce the risk of flooding across the upper section, from Newlay Bridge to Wellington Road Bridge at the Inner Ring Road interchange near the Yorkshire Post building - see map overleaf.

For more details on the whole scheme and the other options we considered please see our leaflet - *The Leeds (River Aire) flood alleviation scheme*.

What is this area like?

From Newlay Bridge to Kirkstall, the River Aire has riverside paths and habitat for wildlife such as otters. The area becomes more industrialised south of Kirkstall Abbey, towards the city centre, with recent development mixed with areas such as Kirkstall Nature Reserve, sports fields, woodland and some derelict sites. Historic sites include Kirkstall Abbey, Armley Mills Museum and the St Ann's Mill site.

Why are defences needed?

There are no formal flood defences along this stretch of the river. This means that during heavy rainfall, the extra water will overflow, causing the local area to flood. Although some of the existing buildings and earth embankments in the area act as informal flood defences, these do not meet the standards needed.

Where will the new defences be?

The map overleaf shows where we propose the defences will be:

- Defences further down from the BHS site at Kirkstall (towards the city centre).
- Defences from the Home Office building along to Cardigan Fields leisure complex, under the viaduct and then all the way to Wellington Bridge.

What kind of defences might be built?

The type of defences will vary with the landscape, available construction space and the surrounding properties.

Just after the BHS site, towards the city centre, a new wall would be built which would need to reach a maximum of three metres high.

The area is built up between Kirkstall Bridge and the viaduct - defences would be a new wall which could possibly include terracing and seating to provide attractive walks and views of the river. Defences along this stretch vary in height between 1-3 metres.

Between the viaduct and Wellington Bridge it is likely that walls will need to be built, but as this land is earmarked for redevelopment. We could work with partners to design defences into the new developments, and open this stretch up for riverside walks. Defences would need to reach a maximum height of two metres.

What happens now?

We want to hear your views on our proposals and what you would like to see done along the river. If you have any questions or comments contact us on leeds.scheme@environment-agency.gov.uk, call 0113 231 2480 or write to The Leeds (River Aire) flood alleviation scheme, Environment Agency, Rivers House, 21 Park Square South, Leeds, LS1 2QG. More information is also available at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/leedsscheme

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This map shows where defences will need to be in the **upper section** of our proposed scheme to reduce the risk of flooding from the River Aire. The light blue sections shows the area currently at risk from a major flood.

