

city centre - Knostrop

Information sheet

Middle 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 city centre, *from Wellington Bridge to the start of the Aire and Calder Navigation at Knostrop* - see the 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 the area like?

Through the city centre the river flows through extremely built up areas. Along the river are houses, businesses and attractions such as the Royal Armouries. There is a mixture of historic buildings, new development and land earmarked for redevelopment. Footpaths run alongside the river for much of this section.

Why are defences needed?

There are no formal flood defences along this stretch of the River Aire, and in the past many properties in this area have been badly flooded. The river is constrained by development, so when the river level rises it easily floods the riverside properties.

Where will the new defences be?

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

- Short stretches of walls between the canal and the river near Whitehall Road;
- Alongside Wellington Place;
- In areas along the right hand side of the river from the train station to the Aire and Calder Navigation;
- In areas along the left hand side of the river from the train station to downstream of Fearn's Island.

What kind of defences might be built?

Because there is so little space between the river and the surrounding areas, there is not much room to build defences, which limits our options. From the train station to Bridge End Road we can strengthen existing walls and other structures to provide the defence. In other areas we can build new walls and where space allows, these would be provided through raised landscaping and stepped seating. In certain buildings, we would need to strengthen or infill very low windows.

What happens now?

We want to hear your views on these 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 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 **middle 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.

