

# Knostrop - Woodlesford

## Information sheet

### Lower section of the proposed Leeds scheme

#### From 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 lower section, **from the Aire and Calder Navigation at Knostrop, through Hunslet out to Woodlesford** - 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?

The river runs through an urbanised area dominated by businesses and apartments before the banks become more natural in appearance as it leaves the city. There are historic buildings such as Thwaites Mill near the river. The Aire and Calder Navigation runs alongside the river with riverside walks including sections of the Trans Pennine Trail. The river and navigation provide opportunities for fishing and habitat for wildlife, such as otters and kingfishers. Beyond the M1, the river becomes increasingly rural - old mineral and coal extraction sites have been restored leaving new wetland areas important for wildlife and recreation, such as Skelton Lake.

#### Why are defences needed?

There are no flood defences along this stretch of the River Aire. The main risk of flooding is if the river floods and flows over its banks into the Aire and Calder Navigation. Because there is little space for extra water in the Aire and Calder Navigation, this can flood areas both up and down stream.

#### Where will the new defences be?

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

- On the right hand bank between the Aire and Calder Navigation and the river between Knostrop and Thwaite Gate
- A small area around Thwaite Mills and then again from just below the Mills to the M1 road bridge.
- A small area either side of Swillington Bridge protecting Woodlesford.

#### What kind of defences might be built?

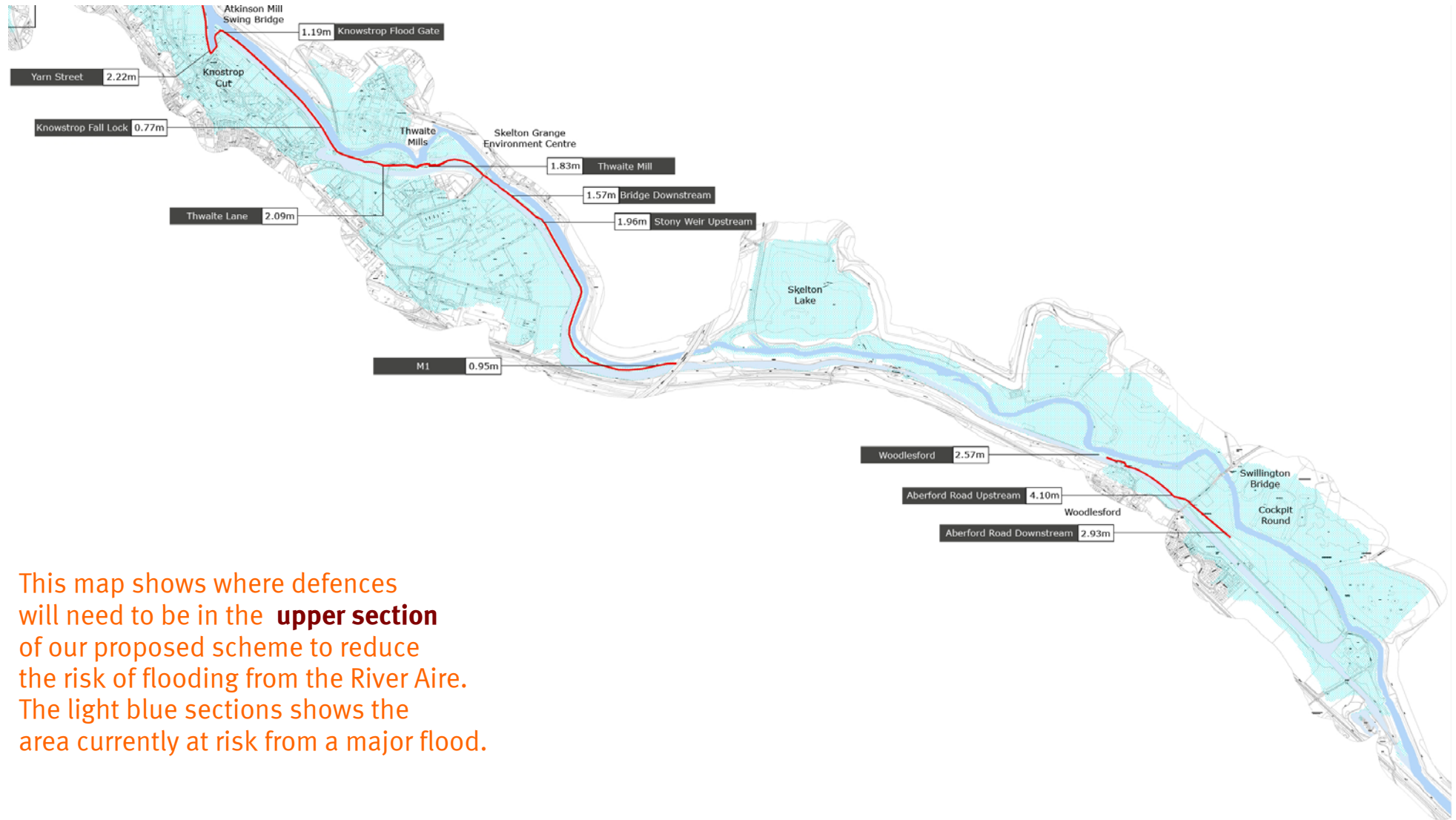
Raised embankments are likely to be needed on the narrow strip of land between the river and the Aire and Calder Navigation at Knostrop and Thwaite Mills. These would rise to a maximum height of 2.5 metres, but would appear much lower, as we would have the footpath on top to keep riverside views and access. Similar embankments would be required upstream (towards the city centre) of the M1 road bridge ranging in height from 0.5 to two metres.

At Woodlesford, either side of Swillington Bridge, these will be grassed slopes between the river and canal.

#### 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](mailto: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](http://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.