

Mytholmroyd Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Environment Agency are working in partnership with Calderdale Council and VBA to deliver the Mytholmroyd Flood Alleviation Scheme

Keeping you informed – Greenhill Industrial Estate

The Calderdale Flood Partnership Board has approved plans to continue to progress with the construction of flood walls at Greenhill Industrial Estate as part of the Mytholmroyd Flood Alleviation Scheme. The plans have been developed in close consultation with the adjacent businesses and the walls can be constructed without the need for those businesses to relocate. The scheme, with walled defences at Greenhill Industrial Estate, will provide a 1 in 50 year standard of protection (2% chance of flooding occurring in any given year) as compared to the current 1 in 5 year standard of protection (20% chance of flooding occurring in any given year).

Background:

There are three key locations in Mytholmroyd where the river narrows and restricts the flow and capacity of the channel. These are at Caldene Bridge, St Michael's Church, and Greenhill Industrial Estate. When we initially explored design options for a flood defence scheme at Mytholmroyd, widening the river at all three locations was considered as part of the overall solution.

However, during 2017, as the scheme design progressed and cost estimates were developed further, it emerged that the cost of implementing all proposed elements of the scheme would not be affordable. All elements of the scheme were assessed at this time to understand which combination of options provide the highest standard of protection for Mytholmroyd for the funding available.

Widening the channel at St Michael's Church delivers the best standard of protection for the largest number of properties, followed by Caldene Bridge and then Greenhill. This is because widening the channel at St Michael's and Caldene Bridge reduces the amount of flood water coming from the river at the upstream end of the village which would then flow down Burnley Road, damaging properties and causing road disruption. The narrow point at Greenhill does cause flood water to flow out of the channel and back up into the village, but this affects fewer properties and the risk of this can be reduced by constructing flood walls at this point. Further analysis has confirmed the importance of constructing new flood walls throughout the village.

The team therefore concluded that with the funding available for the scheme, the best standard of protection for Mytholmroyd is offered by widening at St Michael's Church and Caldene Bridge. If we widened at all three locations, other elements of the scheme would have to be removed and we would not achieve the 1 in 50 year standard of protection.

Next steps:

The Calderdale Flood Partnership remains committed to delivering the best possible standard of protection for Mytholmroyd and will continue to pursue opportunities to widen the channel at Greenhill. The Partnership is also exploring the option of using reservoirs for flood storage and delivering natural flood management projects which could also provide an increased level of protection for Mytholmroyd. However, to wait further for funding opportunities and resolution of issues would result in a delay to the final scheme delivery. As a consequence, the Calderdale Flood Partnership Board has taken the decision to continue to support the project team to progress the construction of flood walls at Greenhill as part of the main Mytholmroyd FAS programme of works.

If you have any concerns, questions or feedback please email the project team - mytholmroydFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.