

# Preston & South Ribble FRMS Phase 2

## FAQS

The Environment Agency is working hard with its partners to provide new flood defences for Preston and South Ribble. The flood risk management scheme will better protect local residents and businesses from flooding from the River Ribble and Darwen well into the future.

### About the Scheme

The Environment Agency is managing the delivery of a new flood defence scheme across Preston and South Ribble. The Scheme starts at Broadgate in Preston, extends upstream along the River Ribble into Walton-le-Dale, and along the River Darwen as far as the blue bridge. The Scheme consists of raising the existing flood defences where feasible, and replacing with new defences. This will improve flood protection for around 5000 residential properties and businesses.

Phase 2 will repair, replace, and extend existing defences across Walton-le-Dale, providing renewed flood protection for homes and businesses. In other areas, including the Boulevard in Frenchwood, the height of the existing defences is sufficient to uphold the current level of flood protection, therefore only minor maintenance and improvement activities will be carried out.

Throughout the project, we will be working closely with our partners at Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, and United Utilities.

### The design of the flood defences

The new flood defences will be higher than the existing ones and will include glass panels along some areas. The Scheme is sympathetic to the character of the local area and will enhance the riverside environment.

### Frequently Asked Questions

We have addressed some of the most common questions below, but if you have any additional queries then please contact the team at [psr@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psr@environment-agency.gov.uk)

#### **Q) Why is the Environment Agency proposing to cut down trees on Victoria Road and will they be replaced?**

To carry out essential flood defence works as part of the Preston & South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme, the lime trees along Victoria Road will need to be removed. These trees will be replaced at a ratio of 12:1 as part of the flood scheme works. We have planted over 8500 trees in Fishwick Bottoms as part of the Scheme, with additional trees planted in Broadgate Gardens, along Golden Way, and at Ribble Sidings.

The Scheme explored all possible avenues to retain the trees, however they need to be removed to create enough space for construction and to safely install the new flood wall, which requires deep foundations of at over 10 metres. The large number of utilities in the adjacent footpath mean that the new defence cannot be moved further inland. The trees cannot be replanted in the same location, as their roots could damage the new flood defences.

We understand these trees are highly valued by the local community. Our research has found no evidence linking them to specific historical events such as Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 (the "21-Gun Salute,"). It may be that the trees connection with the Jubilee derives from the commemorative water fountain which is believed to have been moved here from elsewhere in Walton-le-Dale. Regardless, we recognise that these trees may hold local significance and enhance the setting of the Church Brow Conservation Area. Once the planning application is submitted, the local planning authority will carry out its own assessment, including any potential cultural or historical value.

We are exploring ways to mitigate the tree loss — including options to reuse the wood as seating and artwork, and to take cuttings from the existing trees for replanting.

**Q) Why has the Scheme changed since the 2019 consultation?**

Since the 2019 consultation we have continued to develop the design for Phase 2 of the Scheme, including reviewing the approach to flood risk management in the local area. This review identified that the flood defence levels across several locations in Walton-le-Dale and Frenchwood are already at or above the proposed flood defence level.

As part of the Phase 2 works, we will be maintaining and improving existing defences across Walton-le-Dale and Frenchwood to improve their condition and increase their operational life.

**Q) Why is Higher Walton no longer included in the Scheme?**

In the six years since the 2019 consultation, the Environment Agency has continued to develop the design and to review its approach to local flood risk management. Further work has been undertaken which has identified that Higher Walton's flood risk is independent to the rest of the Scheme.

Updated hydraulic modelling shows that building flood defences at Higher Walton would have no impact on flood protection for properties in the other areas of the Scheme; and vice-versa. Therefore, Higher Walton has been removed from the Scheme and will be assessed as a standalone project following further engagement with local authorities.

**Q) Will the proposed scheme increase the risk from other forms of flooding?**

The Environment Agency has worked closely with United Utilities and Lancashire County Council to ensure the flood risk associated with surface water and sewer flooding will not increase as a result of the proposed Scheme.

Designated, non-main rivers and surface water/groundwater flooding issues, fall within the remit of the Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA). Local flooding incidents of this nature should be reported to the LLFA/Council at the time of the occurrence. Reports to Lancashire County Council, as LLFA, can be sent to [highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@lancashire.gov.uk).

Sewer Flooding falls within the remit of United Utilities (UU). You can report flooding to UU via their online tool (<https://www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies/report-a-problem/>) on [??](#)

**Q) How long will Victoria Road be closed during the works?**

The Environment Agency does not undertake road closures lightly. While undertaking construction of the Scheme, we will require road closures in some locations to create safe working areas for our contractors and to ensure the safety of the public.

Construction along Victoria Road river frontage will require access from the road, and this will require the road to be closed throughout construction. An alternative route for traffic will be agreed with Lancashire County Council and a new temporary access into the Yew Tree pub's carpark will be created. We currently estimate that this closure will need to be in place for around 12 to 18 months, however this will need to be agreed with Lancashire County Council.

**Q) Will the new flood defences help with insurance for homes and businesses?**

Reducing the risk of flooding and/or the impact a flood event, could make it easier for your property to be accepted by insurers or reduce your insurance premium. However, this cannot be guaranteed as all insurance companies have different rules and standards when evaluating whether to insure a property in a known flood risk area. You can find more information by visiting: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/blog/a-quick-guide-to-household-flood-insurance/>

**Q) Are there any plans for dredging the river or gravel removal?**

No, the volume of material that would need to be dredged or removed, in order to reduce flooding, would be very large and not cost effective, as well as severely damaging to the river environment.

**Q) Will I still be able to access my property when the construction work starts?**

Access will be maintained to properties, but there will be no vehicle access in some areas. Traffic management will be in place throughout the works. Where needed, we will have operatives in working areas, who will stop works as required and direct residents along the footpath. Emergency access will be maintained at all times.

**Q) Will I still be able to park on the road by my house?**

To undertake the work safely, some roads, or sections of road, will be closed to all non-construction traffic, including parking. Where possible, alternative parking will be provided, this may be on surrounding roads. Advanced closure notifications will be provided, and we will endeavour to reopen roads as soon as possible.

**Q) Will I still be able to have visitors and deliveries to my home?**

Deliveries and visitor access will be maintained at all times. This will be done under the same conditions as residents accessing their property. We will require advanced notice to provide access for large delivery or removal vehicles, contact us via email at [psr@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psr@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Q) Will there be any changes to my bin collections?**

Bin collections will be undertaken as usual. When we are working outside residents' properties, our team will move bins from your gates to outside the working area and then return them after the collection is completed.

**Q) What hours will work take place and will it be noisy?**

Our working hours are Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm, and Saturday 8am – 2pm but we do not anticipate working on weekends or bank holidays. Noise is to be anticipated with this type of construction, however we will do all we can to minimise this as much as possible. Noise monitors will be in place to ensure that we are working within the permitted limit.

**Q) Will the works damage my property?**

No damage is anticipated to be caused by the construction work. It is standard practice for pre-construction surveys to be undertaken. An independent surveyor will undertake a photographic survey of the properties identified as being closest to the construction work. We can share a copy of this report with you should you wish. Vibration monitors will be in place close to properties as the works are undertaken, and we have strict tolerances that we must work within.

**Q) Where will the construction vehicles and materials be set-up and stored?**

The main construction compound will be established in the park and ride at the rear of the Capitol Centre. A secondary smaller compound will be established off Higher Walton Road by Blue Bridge Nursery. Materials will only be brought to the working areas as and when required. CCTV and security will be in place.

# Find out more about the Flood Risk Management Scheme

We will continue to engage with residents, businesses, and the wider community as the Scheme progresses. If you would like to provide feedback and/or receive updates, then you can:

**Visit our Information Hub** – You are welcome to visit the Information Hub and speak to an advisor. We are open on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am-3pm at BAC/EE Social & Sports Association, off South Meadow Lane, Preston, PR1 8JP.

**Look at our website** - You can find more information and download our newsletter on our website [www.thefloodhub.co.uk/psr](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk/psr)

**Email us** - You can provide feedback and sign-up for our newsletter by contacting us via email [psr@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psr@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Download the Engage App** - We post regular updates on the VolkerStevin Engage App. Use the QR code below to download or visit your App Store and search 'VolkerStevin Engage'. You can also use the App to ask questions and to provide feedback.



**Write to us** - If you do not have access to the internet, then you can write to us:

Preston and South Ribble FRMS  
Comms & Engagement c/o Lancashire PSO Team  
Environment Agency  
Lutra House  
Dodd Way, Off Seedlee Road  
Bamber Bridge, Preston  
PR5 8BX

Please note, there can be a delay in mail reaching the correct member of staff.