

Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme

September 2025

The Environment Agency is working with Calderdale Council to design and build a Flood Alleviation Scheme for Hebden Bridge.

Planning Application – Information Update

We are issuing this update as we understand a number of inaccurate statements are being shared on social media. We appreciate there is a lot of information to digest, and it can sometimes be misinterpreted. Our priority is to ensure everyone has access to clear, factual information so that people can form their views based on evidence rather than speculation.

All scheme documentation is publicly available, and due to the technical nature of the project, it is necessarily detailed. To make things easier, we have produced a comprehensive FAQ (available at *Eye on Calderdale: Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme*). The Flood Information Hub on Valley Road is also open every Monday and Friday between 10am–2pm, and every Thursday 3pm–7pm. Anyone wishing to speak to a member of the project team is very welcome to visit in person, or contact us via hebdenbridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Addressing Key Misunderstandings and Comments

Comment: “Construction will take 5–6 years”

The current programme estimates a four-year build. There are over 80 different elements that need building and we will only ever be working on a few of these at any one time. The work will therefore be spread out over time and across the town.

Comment: “The scheme won’t stop another 2015 flood”

The scheme will reduce the risk of river flooding occurring from 20% now to a 2% chance in any given year. The 2015 event was very large and whilst the scheme would not prevent it, if another event of a similar size was to occur, the scheme would ensure that flooding was later and less severe. People will have more time to prepare and protect themselves.

Comment: “Surface water flooding is being ignored”

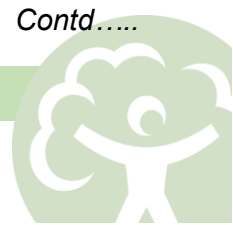
We understand that surface water flooding is an issue. Reducing surface water flooding across the town was previously part of the scheme however it has become apparent that this needs to be addressed at the same time as Yorkshire Water upgrade infrastructure to reduce the number of spills from combined sewer overflows. This will happen as part of a future package of work. We are progressing with a scheme which addresses river flooding now, which is the most significant source of flood risk facing the town.

Some surface water risk is being addressed through parallel work including Property Flood Resilience schemes and drainage improvements at New Road, Hebble End and Shelf Road. Natural Flood Management measures are also being delivered on Erringden Hillside to slow the flow of water into town.

Comment: “There has been no public consultation”

A public consultation was held at the very start of the design process and all documents are available online. Since then, we have held drop-in events, held meetings with local councillors, partner organisations, business forums, disability access groups and the established stakeholder group. The Flood Information Centre has been open since August 2023 for anyone to speak to us directly.

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Comment: “The scheme only protects 400 properties”

This figure ignores the wider benefits. The scheme will safeguard two schools, protect key transport routes, keep the valley moving and improve access for businesses, residents and emergency services. It will also deliver environmental gains through weir modifications, river habitat enhancements and new public spaces.

Comment: “Too many trees will be lost”

Some trees do need to be removed to allow construction - this is unavoidable in most civil engineering schemes. However, every tree earmarked for removal will be reviewed by the contractor and an independent arboriculturist to ensure only those absolutely necessary are taken. We are committed to replanting five trees for every one lost - 565 native trees in total - with 72 of these planted within the scheme area itself.

Comment: Disruption will force businesses to close

There will be some disruption - as with any major infrastructure project - but works will be phased to minimise impact. Businesses will be able to claim compensation and will not have to wait until the end of construction to do so - losses evidenced as a direct result of the works can be assessed and reimbursed regularly throughout.

We recognise many people feel anxious about the proposed works. That is entirely understandable. Our commitment is to be open, accountable and respectful - but also clear on the evidence behind decisions. If you have concerns, please come and talk to us directly.

The increased presence of construction teams and visitors to the site will also generate footfall. Above all, it is essential that the joint message is clear:

Hebden Bridge remains open for business.

The Planning Application for the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) is now live.

You can view it on Calderdale Council's Planning Website using application reference **25/00947/FUL** — [Link here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

A copy of the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary is also available to view at Hebden Bridge Town Hall.



More information can be found on www.eyeoncalderdale.com under the Projects section – Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme.

We are now open on Mondays and Fridays between 10am-2pm and on **Thursday afternoons/evenings from 3pm-7pm**. Visit us to speak with members of the project team and view information about the Flood Alleviation Schemes for Hebden Bridge Town Centre, Stubbing Holme Road and Erringden Hillside.

To receive copies of updates about the progress of our work via email, please send 'subscribe' to HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

