

WHITE CART WATER FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME - PHASE 3

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Consultation such as this costs a lot of time, money and resources that could be put towards the Scheme, so why do it?

As well as being a statutory requirement within the original approval process when developing the Flood Prevention Scheme, it is essential that this 3rd phase of the project is visible to the local community and stakeholders. This ensures that we inform as many as we can to assist the delivery of the project and make sure we take all views on board.

With the defences in place, what happens when it rains; will surface water still drain into the river?

The new flood defences are designed to prevent flooding from overtopping of the river. Equally, they will also stop surface water flowing in the other direction back into the river. To counteract this, a series of pumping stations are included along the length of the Scheme, which will pump any 'trapped' surface water from the dry side of the defences back into river.

Will the walls stop all flooding in the area?

There always remains a risk with every Flood Scheme that there will be a storm event which delivers a flood greater than the Scheme is designed to protect against. However, the White Cart Water scheme will protect against flooding up to an equivalent of a 1 in 200 year event and this level of protection would have prevented flooding from every recorded event on the river.

I live in a house downstream of the defences; are you passing the flood water to me and increasing my flood risk?

No, from the baseline figures taken in advance of Phases 1 and 2 of the scheme, detailed hydraulic modelling has been carried out to confirm that the final solution does not increase flood risk to any properties.

I like the stone finish; why can't you make all the walls look like this?

To use stone for all the walls would be very expensive and therefore could jeopardise the financial viability of the Scheme. In certain areas there is a requirement for a higher quality finish to ensure the walls are in keeping with, or enhancing the existing finishes e.g within Conservation areas. For the majority of Phase 3, a formed concrete finish to walls is proposed to match those already in place.

Will the scheme have any affect on home insurance?

There is no guarantee that the Scheme will reduce home insurance costs, as every insurer assesses flood risk differently.

Affordable home insurance for eligible properties which are at risk of flooding is now available through a joint government and insurance industry initiative called Flood Re, which was launched in April 2016. You can find out more on the website www.floodre.co.uk.

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Why are we protecting to 1 in 100 year plus climate change (which equates to approximately 1 in 200 year excluding climate change) flood levels, what does this mean?

The likelihood of flooding is described as the chance that a location will flood in any one year. For example, if a location has a 1% chance of flooding each year, it has a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any year. So in this case we are looking at 0.5%, a 1 in 200 chance.

However, this doesn't mean that if a location floods one year, it will definitely not flood for the next 199 years. Nor, if it has not flooded for 199 years, will it necessarily flood this year. The lower the percentage then the less chance there is of flooding in any one year; the higher the percentage then the more chance there is of flooding in any one year.

Does Phase 3 have all the necessary approvals in place?

The works being delivered in Phase 3 of the Scheme were originally included within the formal approval process completed in 2005, this in turn resulted in the scheme being confirmed by the Scottish Government. This confirmation allowed Glasgow City Council to proceed and carry out the works, so long as any other required statutory consents, such as planning, were in place. The original scheme approvals, including planning permission, granted at that stage remain valid today. Similarly, the original Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Licence granted by SEPA has been amended and approved for this phase. Any licenses required to allow the disturbance of protected species will also be reviewed and re-applied for where necessary.

Why has it taken so long to complete these final work sections?

Glasgow City Council's original plan was to construct all work sections during the original contract which was completed in 2011. However due to budgetary constraints the Council had to make the tough decision to postpone some areas of the scheme to ensure a reduced scope contract could still go ahead and deliver a significant majority of the designed flood defences. It has taken until now for the Council, working with the Scottish Government, to secure the additional funding required to carry out this 3rd Phase of previously removed sections.

Dredging the river is always held up as an alternative to flood walls in the past; why can't you do that to reduce flooding?

Whilst dredging the river may seem like an attractive quick-fix solution, it is not a sustainable method of reducing flooding impact. Dredging rivers has devastating ecological impacts and only provides a very short-term benefit until the next heavy rainfall event, which will likely deposit large quantities of material again. A river naturally finds its own course over time, therefore removing river deposits does not provide a reliable long-term solution. Detailed river modelling also confirms that localised dredging does not reduce flood levels by any significant amount. In addition, altering a river's natural geomorphological process (sediment movement and deposition) can cause erosion of the riverbed and banks, which in turn can lead to the failure of existing structures such as roads and bridges.