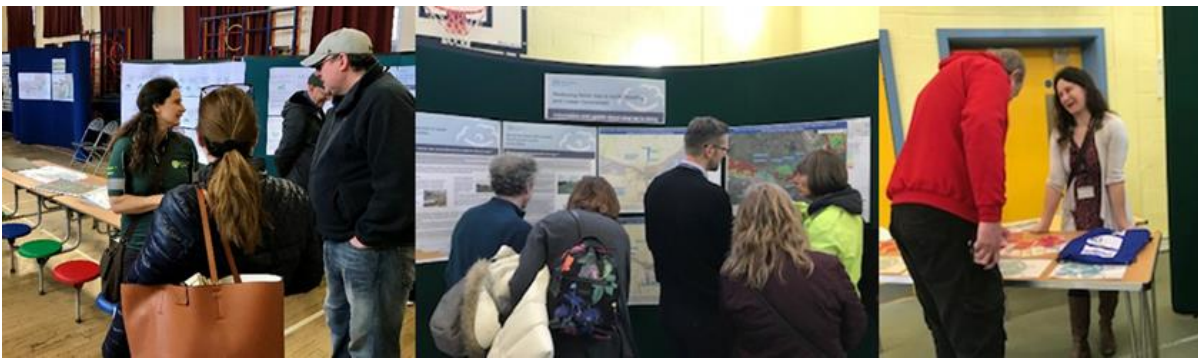


Feedback from our drop-ins



We held 6 public drop-ins in February and March. Over 200 people attended the drop-ins and 140 people completed our feedback form. This was not a formal consultation. We asked people attending the drop-ins for feedback to improve our understanding of public views about our work and to help us with future engagement. The feedback shows that 68% of people who attended live in the area most at risk of flooding.

Responses have been positive:



78%

Found the event useful or very useful



62%

**agreed with the need to reduce flood
risk in the area**

14% did not (the rest did not answer or were not sure)



59%

agreed with the overall design proposals

21% did not (the rest did not answer or were not sure)

We have now published a full report of the feedback online, along with a shorter set of slides for those who do not want to read the full report. This report and all the drop in material can be viewed at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/reducing-flooding-in-reading-and-caversham-infroma/>

Environmental survey work

We carried out baseline habitat surveys in 2017. To keep these up to date and to identify any habitat changes across the site, we will be conducting a follow up survey **on 27 and 28 July**. Our aim is to assess the condition and type of habitats to help our plan to improve the biodiversity in this area if the project goes ahead.

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Project options report

We have considered many different options to reduce flooding in Reading and Caversham. These include flood storage areas and natural flood management measures such as woodland planting and wetland restoration.



An example of some of the options considered: Natural flood management, flood walls and flood embankments.

Most of the techniques considered would not work on their own to reduce the impact from a major flood. The option that would reduce the impacts of flooding for the largest number of people includes a combination of:

- Earth embankments.
- Flood walls.
- Removable temporary flood barriers.

You can view our full options report on our website to find out more about:

1. Why we are looking at reducing flood risk in Reading and Caversham.
2. Our approach to flood risk management schemes.
3. How we have selected the preferred options and why other options have not been progressed.

To view the full report visit: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/reducing-flooding-in-reading-and-caversham-infroma/>

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What's next?

We are adapting to our new way of working due to the Covid-19 pandemic which restricts the usual way in which we carry out our engagement. Our offices are closed and the restrictions mean that face to face meetings are not possible.

- We plan to hold a virtual meeting with Reading Borough Council and ward councillors over the summer to discuss the feedback in more detail. We want to seek their advice on what our next steps will be based on the feedback.
- We will offer virtual meetings with resident and interest groups.
- In future newsletters we will focus on some of the topics you raised questions about in the drop-in feedback: the design, the channel, trees and additional benefits of the scheme.
- We will continue to look at how we could fund a scheme.

Where can I find out more?

- Visit our website for more information on the scheme: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-reading-and-lower-caversham-flood-alleviation-scheme/north-reading-and-lower-caversham-flood-alleviation-scheme>.
- Look out for updates about the scheme on the Environment Agency's Twitter and Facebook accounts:



@environmentagency



@EnvAgencySE

- If you have any questions or would like anything featured in future editions of this newsletter please contact: readingandcavershamscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk.