



Hawick Flood Protection Scheme



Frequently Asked Questions

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The plans don't show any protection for the Slitrig Water – why is this the case?

The full effects of flood risk from the Slitrig Water are still being evaluated. The Council acknowledges that the Slitrig Water poses a flood risk to Hawick Town Centre and it is conceivable that flood protection plans are extended to include the Slitrig Water in the future.

What level of protection will the Scheme provide?

This decision has still to be taken and depends on a wide range of factors, including economic, social and environmental. The key factor in determining the size of flood event that can be protected against is the height of the walls above ground level. We are especially keen to ensure that the defences do not sever the community from the river.

Hawick is built on a bed of gravel – won't the flood waters just bubble up through the ground?

The effects of seepage of water through the ground during flood events have been taken into account in developing these options. Our design team are aware of how permeable the ground is and have developed potential measures to combat this risk, including cut off walls, enhanced drainage and possible pumping stations.

How much could it cost to build?

Until all the options are evaluated and feedback is sought from the public and key organisations such as SEPA, River Tweed Commission and Hawick Volunteer Flood Group, it is not possible to define an accurate cost at this stage. However, it is likely that the capital cost will be measured in tens of millions of pounds, with the options involving flood storage costing the most.

Will this definitely go-ahead?

There is no guarantee that the Scheme will go ahead. The decision to proceed will be made after evaluating a number of factors, including public and stakeholder feedback, funding sources and environmental impacts.

The plans show that the James Thomson Bridge may require to be raised - why is this the case?

The James Thomson Bridge was designed and substantially constructed by the time the flood of October 2005 occurred. The bridge was designed to pass the 1 in 100 year flood event beneath the bridge deck with no other flood protection measures in place. The presence of defences upstream of the bridge in the Flood Protection Scheme raises levels in the channel as the water cannot escape out of bank. This effectively means that lower severity flood events will overtop the bridge. One option is to raise the bridge to a level where a major flood event can pass beneath the deck.

Will the flood defences increase the flood risk downstream from Hawick?

The design team have produced a sophisticated computer model of the River Teviot from Langlands Bridge to Hornshole Bridge. The model shows that the change in flood levels downstream of the last flood defences at the SBC depot is negligible. At the Emtelle factory, the 1 in 200 year flood level is 15mm higher with the defences in place and at Hornshole Bridge, the increase has dropped to just 7mm. For the 1 in 75 year event, the increases are even smaller, at 13 and 6mm respectively. The reason for this is the wide open flood plain on the left hand side of the Teviot which serves to store the extra flood water which has been channelled through the town's defences. There is no additional flood risk to Denholm or Kelso.

The plans show the defences crossing my land - what will happen to me if the Scheme goes ahead?

If the Flood Protection Scheme goes ahead, there is a formal legal process which must be followed, in accordance with the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. This involves close consultation with all those directly and indirectly affected by the proposed flood protection measures. Plans of the proposals are then drawn up and a period over which they can be inspected is advertised in the newspapers. Anyone has a right to object to the plans. If the flood protection proposals result in monetary loss which can be demonstrated, then compensation is available.

Once the processes are complete and Scheme is confirmed, then the Council has the legal powers to construct the works. One of our team will be pleased to explain the processes in more detail if you wish.