

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

January 2024

Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) Tree Removal – Wellholme Park

Why are you taking down trees in Wellholme Park?

In recent years, businesses and the local community in Brighouse have been badly affected by devastating flood incidents which have severely affected the local community. Over the past few years, the Environment Agency has been working with Calderdale Council, ARUP and BAM Nuttall Ltd to design a flood defence scheme for Brighouse which aims to better protect 55 residential and 359 non-residential properties in the town.

The flood alleviation scheme for Brighouse includes upstream storage in Whinney Hill Park and Wellholme Park, as well as repair and replacement of defences along the River Calder and Clifton Beck.

The proposed works will reduce the flood risk levels to local residential and business properties by controlling flows during heavy rainfall events.

Work in the parks involves the introduction of landscape features to improve attenuation of flood waters and improve the park environment. More detailed information about the nature of the work is available on www.eyeoncalderdale.com under the projects section.

To carry out this work unfortunately some trees will need to be removed in the parks.

It is our aim from an environmental and community perspective to retain as many trees as possible. However, in the interests of the necessary works for this beneficial flood risk reduction scheme, a number of trees are required to be cleared for both the permanent project work and working access.

Some of the trees included are either leaning dangerously or are at risk of blocking the river channel or a potential safety hazard.

The trees were surveyed and numbers challenged during the detailed design prior to the submission of planning application, to ensure that the amount is the minimum number of trees required to be removed.

How many trees are you taking down?

Across both parks, there are 28 stand-alone trees being removed and approximately 58 stems or small diameter trees.

What type of trees are you taking down?

The trees being taken down are mainly Sycamore and Ash trees. There are also 2 Oak trees and 2 Willow trees.

Don't trees help when it floods?

Trees do help in terms of drawing water during the growing season, which is why we include tree planting as part of natural flood management projects in suitable locations.

The new landscaping will include trees. This will have a much larger impact in this location in terms of better protection, increased biodiversity and community benefits.

Can I view a plan of where the trees are coming down?

A full plan of proposed removal is available and the landscape proposal for the scheme is also available. You can request this by emailing BrighthouseFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

How many trees are you re-planting?

The ratio of re-planting varies depending upon species, however in general we are aiming for a ratio of 3 to 1.

What size/age trees will be re-planted?

There will be a mixture of maturity of trees. We wanted to ensure that there is an impact as soon as the scheme is complete and benefit the wildlife and community as early as possible.

Where will the trees be re-planted?

Trees will be re-planted in both parks as part of the landscape proposals. We are actively looking at other areas in the vicinity and wider Calder valley to ensure that we meet the target ratio.

Will you also be taking trees down in Whinney Hill Park?

Yes, approximately 10 trees will be removed and are included in the numbers above.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

If you have any additional questions about this work or any other element of flood alleviation scheme for Brighthouse, you can contact the project team by emailing BrighthouseFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk. More information about the scheme can be found on www.eyeoncalderdale.com under the Projects section. You can also sign up to receive email updates as the scheme progresses by sending the word 'subscribe' to the above email address.

