

Vision



“Reduce flood risk and improve the riverside environment in Guildford to enhance wellbeing, support green growth and a sustainable future”

Objectives



Reduce flood risk to Guildford town centre, making it more resilient to climate change.



Develop a scheme in partnership which achieves positive outcomes for the environment



Build better connections between Guildford town centre and the River Wey



The scheme

The **Environment Agency** has been working in partnership with Guildford Borough Council (GBC) and Surrey County Council (SCC) for several years to find a sustainable flood risk management scheme for Guildford.

Guildford has a history of flooding from the River Wey. Significant floods have caused damage to homes and businesses, as well as disrupting vital infrastructure such as roads and utilities.

The risk of flooding in Guildford will get worse with climate change and unfortunately, it's only a matter of time before we see another serious flood.

We want to ensure Guildford's communities are as protected as possible from the increased risk of flooding we'll see in coming decades. This is why we're working to develop a sustainable long-term flood risk management scheme for Guildford town centre.

The **Guildford Flood Alleviation Scheme** would reduce the high level of flood risk to the town centre. As well as directly benefiting residents, this will keep the city open for business in times of flood, helping protect Guildford's thriving economy.

At a glance



What will the scheme achieve?

The scheme will better protect Guildford from the impacts of flooding. It will deliver protection to businesses, infrastructure and homes, including residential areas like Mary Road and William Road. The scheme is not just about flood defences. It is also about:

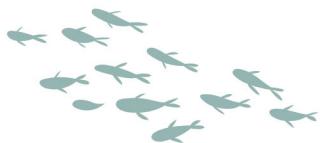
- Improving the riverside environment
- Connecting people with the river Wey
- Delivering positive environmental outcomes.

What will the scheme involve?



2km of built defences along the river including flood gates where necessary. We aim to integrate the defences into the current landscaping.

Areas of land lowering to create more space for water and environmental enhancements.



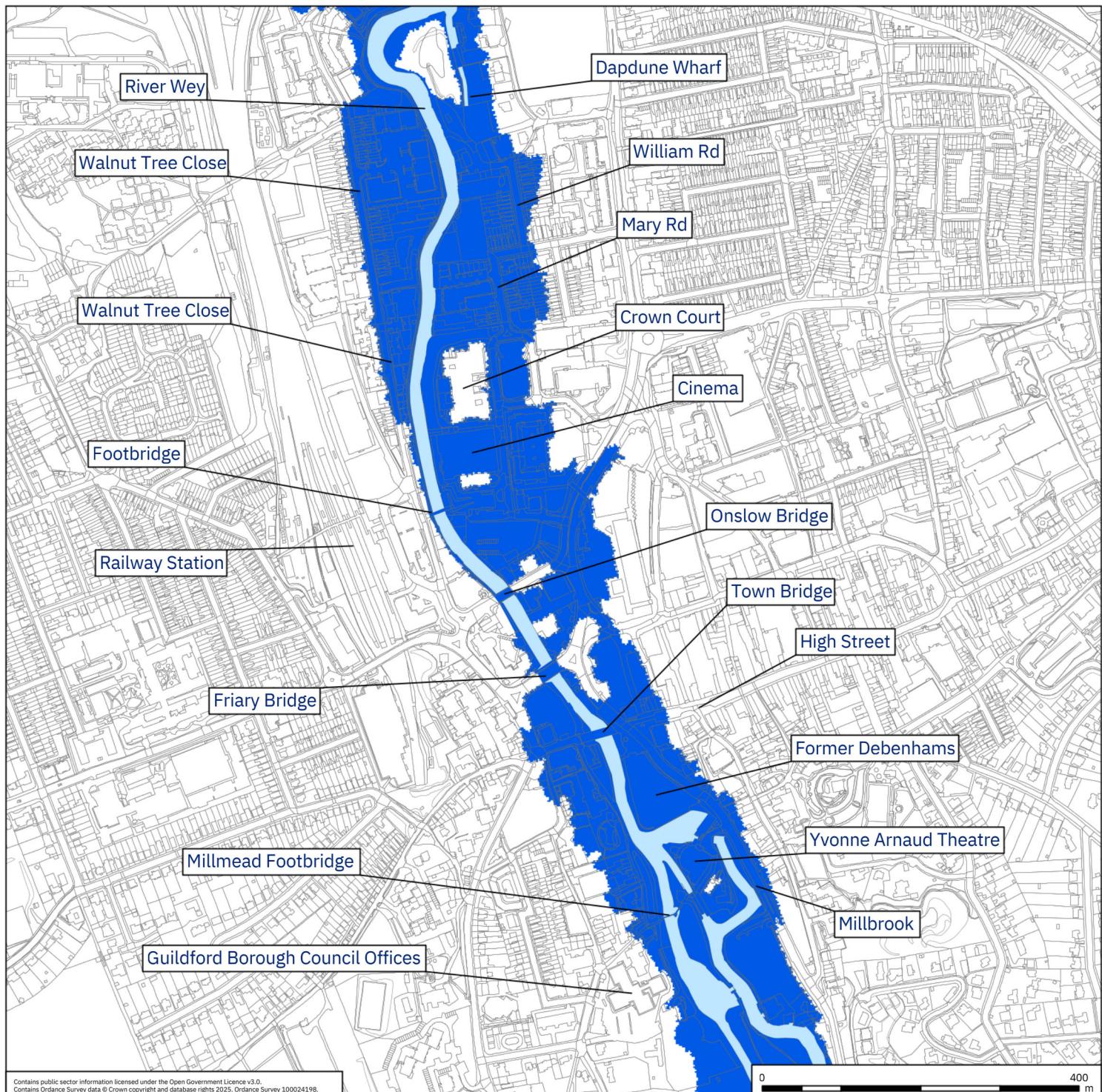
Opportunities for new fish passes helping to unlock the River Wey for fish populations.

We will be making modifications to Town Bridge and replacing Millmead footbridge to improve water flow.



We will be replacing the concrete ramps at Walnut Tree bridge with a new elevated walkway. This will keep the route across the bridge accessible even in times of flood.

Current flood risk



This map shows the extent of land that would be impacted by a significant flood that has a 1% or more chance of happening in any given year. This flood extent also considers climate change predictions.

The last significant flood event in Guildford, classified as having a 1% chance of happening in any given year, was in 1968. Our upcoming appraisal will assess different scale flood events. Our ambition is to design a scheme that will manage a flood event of this size while considering the impacts of climate change. Our formal appraisal process will determine the level of protection that can be provided.

Managing current flood risk



The Environment Agency has well tested flood-protection plans in place for Guildford, working with others, including the fire service and Surrey County Council, to help those at greatest risk. We encourage people to check their own flood risk and sign up for Environment Agency flood alerts.



Understanding

Flood Warnings



Flood alert



- Check flood warnings
- This means flooding is **POSSIBLE** and you should prepare
- Prepare by packing a bag with essential items such as medications and insurance documents in case you need to leave your home

Flood warning



- This means that flooding is **EXPECTED** and you need to act
- Move your family, pets and car to safety and put cherished or valuable items upstairs, or at a higher level
- Turn off your gas, water and electricity at the mains if it is safe to do so

Severe flood warning



- This means there is a danger to life and you should **ACT NOW**
- Follow the advice from the emergency services and call **999** if you're in immediate danger
- Keep yourself and your family safe

We carry out annual river maintenance on the River Wey which includes vegetation management, removal of blockages and weir maintenance. This helps the river flow freely and reduces the risk of flooding to communities.

You can sign up to get flood warnings if your home or business is at risk of flooding. The service is free>> <https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings>

Managing current flood risk



We have a temporary defence management plan for Guildford, covering Mary Road and William Road. This tells us how temporary flood barriers could be put up to protect homes and businesses in this location if property flooding is expected. The temporary defence plan was successfully deployed in December 2019 and February 2020 when flows in the River Wey were high.



Temporary flood barrier deployment.
Guildford, Mary Road, 2020

Temporary barrier deployments are subject to dynamic site safety assessments, equipment and human resource availability. The nature of the flood event including the ferocity and scale of the storm that created the flood event can also impact our ability to forecast and deploy defences in time to protect communities.

A permanent scheme will reduce the need for temporary flood barriers to be used each time there is a risk of flooding in Guildford. It will reduce the reliance on human decision-making and availability of resources and staff to deploy barriers. It will give residents peace of mind that a solution is in place whenever flooding may be likely to occur.

Working on your feedback



Here are some examples of how we have been using feedback from stakeholders to progress the design of the scheme. You can view our feedback summary report from our February 2025 events on our website.

Soft landscaping and use of green embankments

We will use green, soft landscaping in the lowered areas, reusing excavated material to hide the walls where possible. We will try to ensure areas have a natural appearance. We will be unable to use embankments in some areas where there is not enough space.



More attractive riverside areas with better public access

The areas where we are lowering the land will improve access to the riverside and provide a natural, quiet setting where people can linger, away from the bustle of Guildford town centre. We will provide paths and seating, along with open grass areas where people can sit in good weather. We will create surfaced tracks which people can use during wet weather, to prevent the ground becoming too muddy.

Working on your feedback



Maintaining and celebrating heritage in Guildford

We have designed the replacement Millmead footbridge to reflect and respect the canal heritage of the area. We intend to include additional moorings along sections of the river to enhance the canal's historic character and to encourage and accommodate visiting boats through parts of the town centre. We will also look to provide heritage interpretation boards to inform people about the history of the navigation and celebrate its significance.



Enhanced biodiversity and create habitat along the river

We will create new green areas along sections of the river to enhance biodiversity and provide attractive spaces for people to enjoy. We will introduce wetland habitats along the river fringe in the Portsmouth Road car park areas and immediately upstream of Millmead footbridge. We will look at fish pass options upstream of the scheme area, to encourage the movement of fish along the River Wey, promoting a healthier and more connected ecosystem.

Improved access to the riverside

We will retain existing access points along the riverbank, and provide additional paths to allow access to the parts of the river which are currently urbanised.



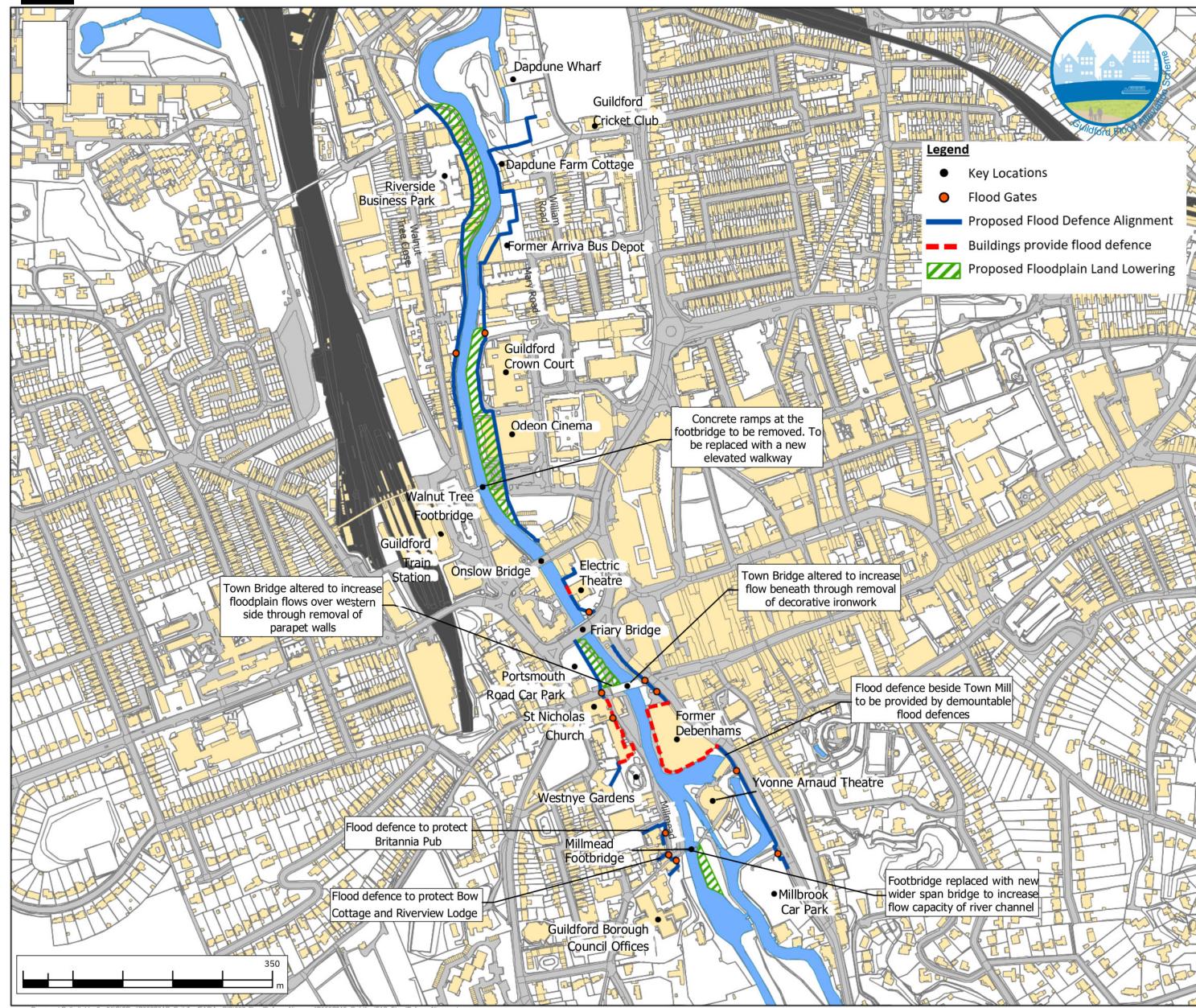
Alignment map

The **Guildford Flood Alleviation Scheme** will be truly transformative for Guildford town centre.

- 2km of flood defences, to be integrated into the current landscape.
- Proposals have been developed with Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council.
- Proposals are based on a Standard of Protection of 1 in 100 + Climate Change
- Land lowering in 4 locations to provide more space for water and to restore a more natural flood plain.
- Interventions to improve flows at Millmead footbridge, Town Bridge and Walnut Tree footbridge.

The scheme is not just about flood defences. It is also about:

- Improving the riverside environment
- Connecting people with the river
- Delivering positive environmental outcomes.



Alignment explainer



Alignments are indicative for the appraisal to confirm that they represent a flood alleviation scheme that is acceptable and does not increase flood risk elsewhere.



The alignment may be subject to change in any given location. This may be due to factors such as impacts on flood risk elsewhere and realisation of wider benefits beyond reduction in flood risk etc.



It should be noted that the alignment is the top of the defences and does not account for the form and nature of the defences and how aspirations for the public realm may need to be integrated.

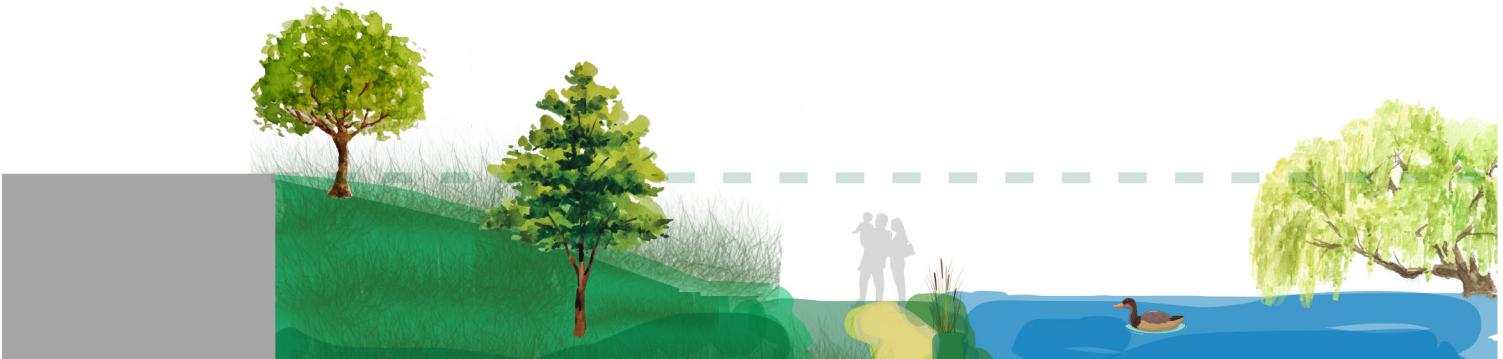
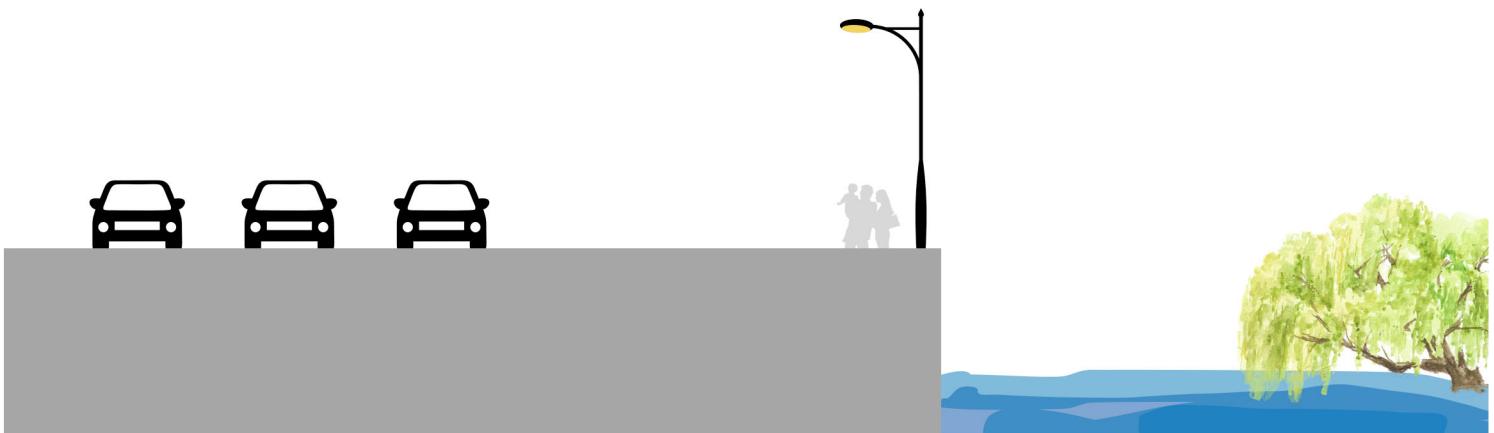
What do we mean by 'land lowering'?



Land lowering involves removing material, such as soil and concrete, to create a lower area of land around a river. This restores a lower, more natural flood plain. These areas provide more space for water, helping to reduce flooding.

Areas of land lowering could include planted flood plains to create new habitat, which can add enhanced benefits to a flood scheme. We also look at how we might be able to reuse the material we remove, for example to be recycled into embankments.

Land lowering locations are shown on the alignment map in green hatching.



Flood gates



The Guildford Flood Alleviation Scheme is located in a heavily developed urban area. The proposed line of the flood defences will cross numerous roads and footways.



The roads and footways need to be maintained, as far as possible. This requires the use of flood gates to ensure existing pedestrian and traffic flows are maintained out of flood events. When flooding occurs, the gates will be closed and access will not be possible.



Locations of the flood gates are indicated by the red dots on the alignment plan.



Specific details of the gates will be established during the detailed design stage of the project (e.g. exact height, width, layout, type, colour).



Different types of gates will be needed at different locations depending on the access requirements and constraints in the area. In most locations, we will use hinged gates. At Town Bridge, we are proposing twin sliding gates to maintain uninterrupted views of Town Bridge and access onto the bridge.

Examples of flood gates



Here is an example of a hinged single leaf flood gate which is open. As you can see it rests flat against the wall when opened, allowing pedestrian access.



Sliding flood gate

This type of flood gate is opened and closed on a sliding mechanism, and slides back against the wall when not in use. It is hidden behind the wall in the image above.

Millmead footbridge

Option 1



We will replace Millmead footbridge and the adjacent brick structure with a longer clear-span bridge, and reshape the upstream riverbank to ensure water can move safely and efficiently.



Existing bridge



Millmead footbridge

Option 2



We are presenting 2 colour options for the replacement Millmead Footbridge. You can let us know if you have a preference by completing our feedback survey.



Walnut Tree bridge proposals



To strengthen Guildford's resilience to climate change, we are making improvements around Walnut Tree footbridge and areas of Bedford Wharf alongside the river. These enhancements will ensure safe and reliable access between the station and the town centre, even during times of flooding.

At Bedford Wharf, we will landscape the area between the flood defence and the river, creating attractive new public spaces for everyone to enjoy. This design not only enhances the riverside environment but also provides additional capacity for flood water, helping to protect the town.

On the east side of the river, the current concrete ramps to the footbridge restrict flood flows. While the existing bridge will remain, we will replace the ramps with a new elevated walkway, carefully designed to complement the bridge's character. This improvement will keep the route across the river open and accessible, ensuring a welcoming connection into the town centre whatever the weather.

Walnut Tree bridge



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Bedford Wharf



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Portsmouth Road car park



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Millbrook - walking north towards the town centre



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Town Mill



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Millmead footbridge - upstream from Lock Island



View from the High Street across Town Bridge looking west



View from the High Street across Town Bridge looking east



Walnut Tree Close before and after



Existing view from east bank of the Courts, looking towards the rear of Walnut Tree Close



Possible view from east bank of the Courts, looking towards the rear of Walnut Tree Close, after the scheme has been built

Town Bridge modifications



Removal of decorative ironwork

Currently, the decorative ironwork under Town Bridge blocks flood water, making flooding to the town centre worse. We are proposing to remove the ironwork to increase the flow capacity in the channel, allowing more water to pass through under the bridge.



This image on the right shows what Town Bridge could look like with the decorative ironwork removed.

Removing brick abutment walls

We would also remove the brick abutment walls. The walls will be replaced with open railings, for water to move more easily through. The brick walls currently block water in large flood events.

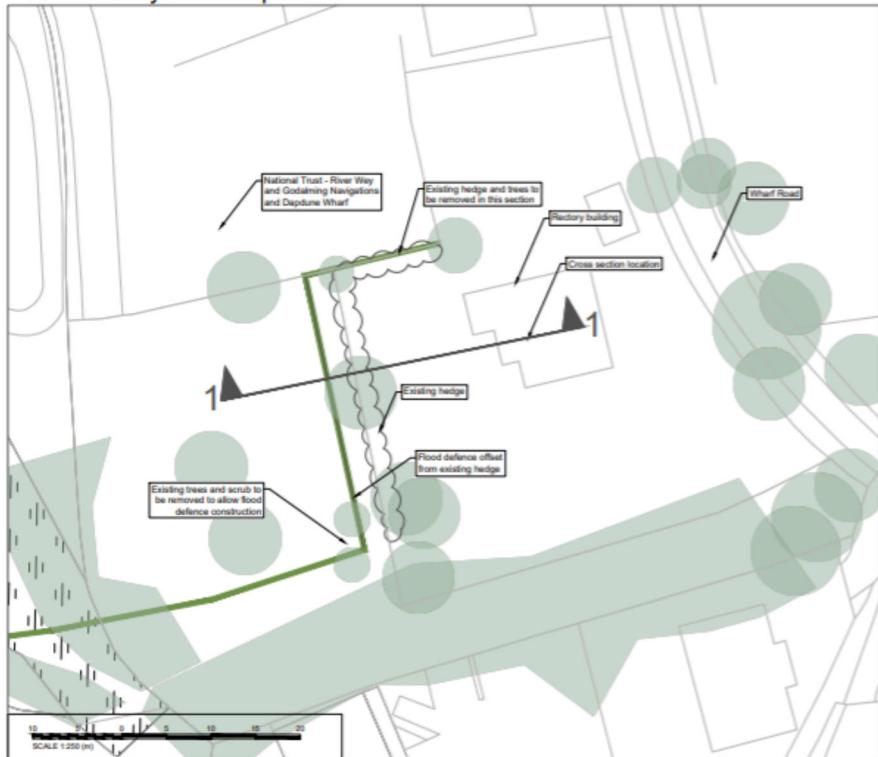


Cross sections



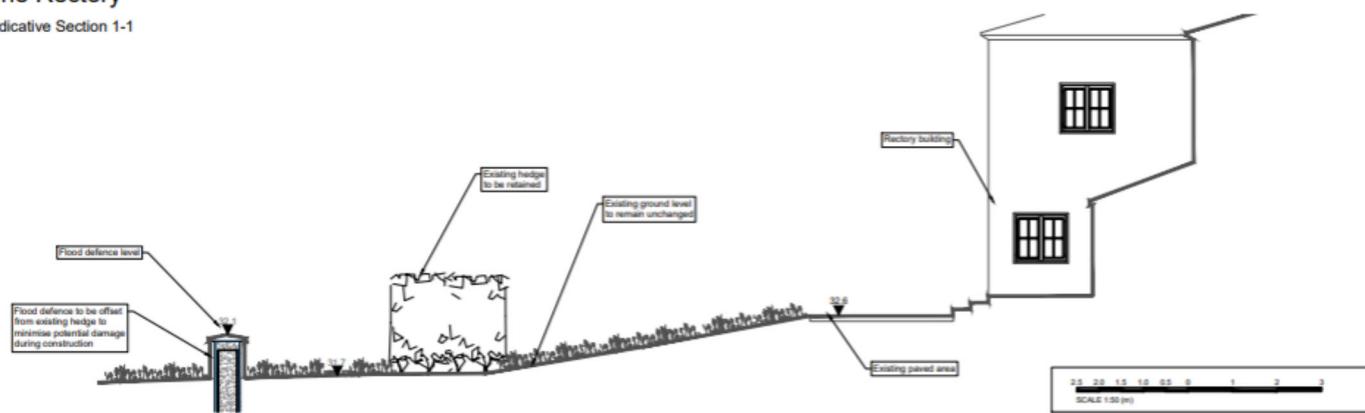
The cross sections on this board give an idea of what could be possible in some locations. They do not represent the final detailed design of the scheme. The information shown may be subject to change in any given location. Reasons for future updates will include detailed design developments and discussions with landowners.

The Rectory location plan

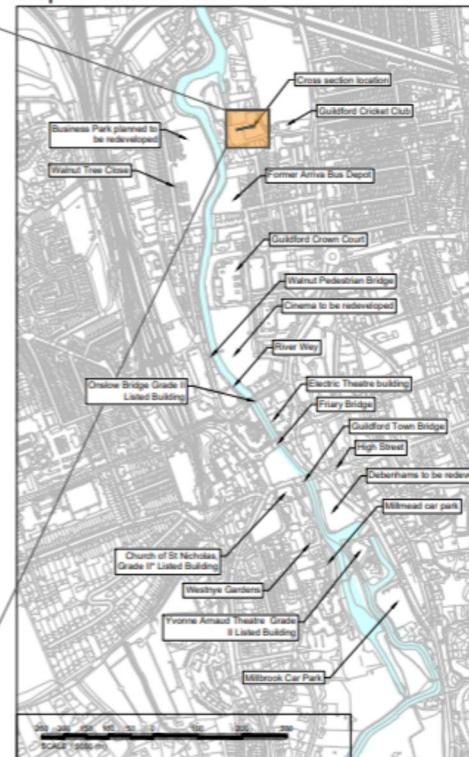


The Rectory

Indicative Section 1-1



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted otherwise.
- All to-scale scales are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Dimensions shown are for planning. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All elevations are indicative.
- Average ground level on section: 100cm (70.8 inches).
- Height of the defences will be determined by proposed existing ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints of the location.
- See Landscape Plan Sheet 7: ENVMSE50192-JAC-22-03-DR-L-0022
- Flood defence levels show provide protection against a 1:100 annual-probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



GUILDFORD BOROUGH Environment Agency SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Drawn by	Checked by	Supervised by	Date	Engineer	Cluster	Reviewed	Approved
DR 1	DR 2	DR 3	DR 4	DR 5	DR 6	DR 7	DR 8

Jacobs.

Guildford FAS

Drawing 100
The Rectory
Cross Section 1-1

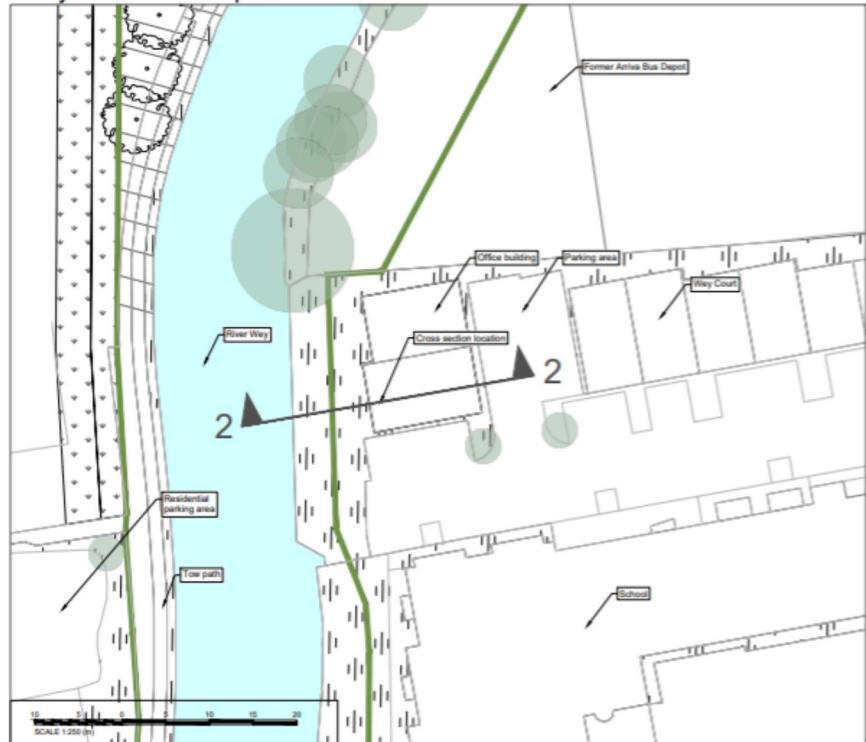
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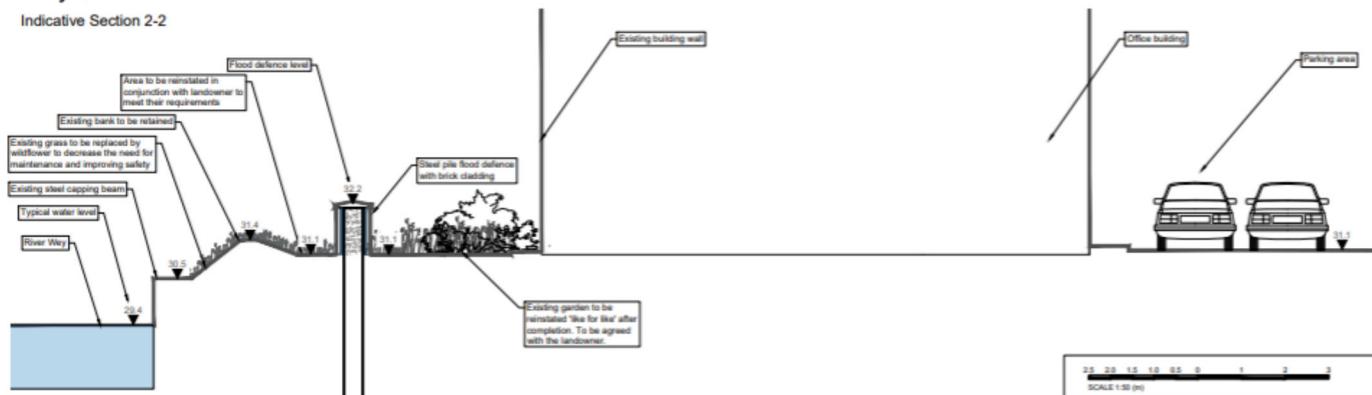
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Wey Court location plan

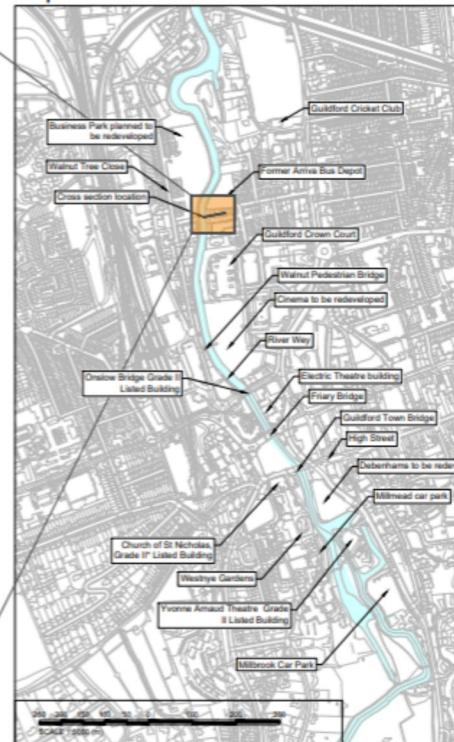


Wey Court

Indicative Section 2-2



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- All locations are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN) unless noted otherwise.
- All co-ordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Dimensions are from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All elevations are indicative.
- Average tree size is section 180cm (70.8 inches).
- Heights of the defences are conditioned by proposed/rehindering ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
- See Landscape Plan Sheet 7: ENV/MSE580152-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0032
- Proposed flood defences are designed to withstand a 100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



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Guildford FAS

Wey Court

Cross Section 2-2



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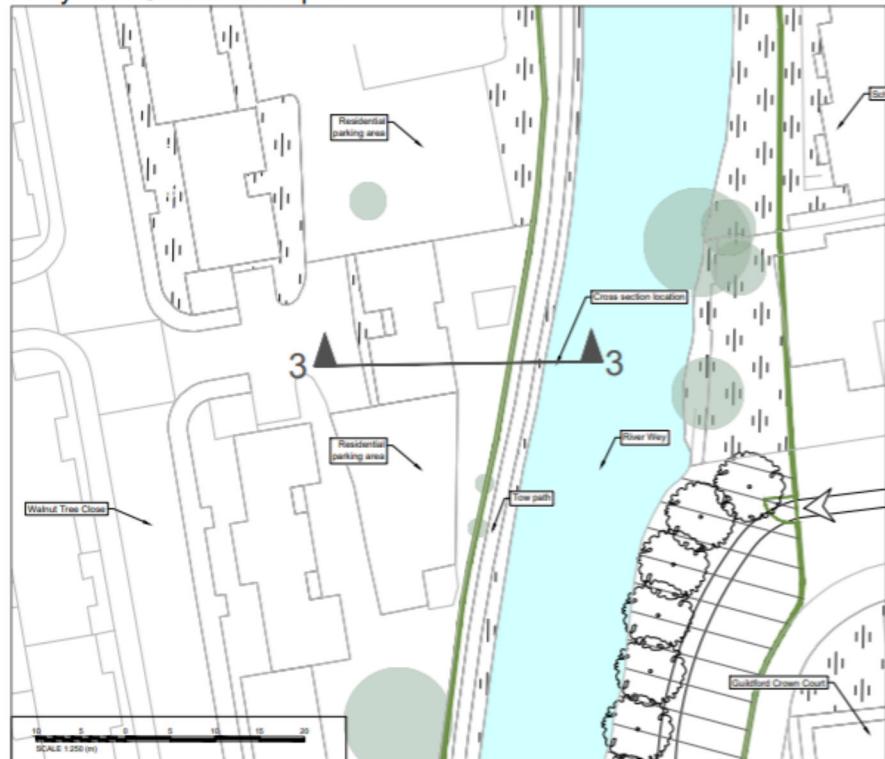
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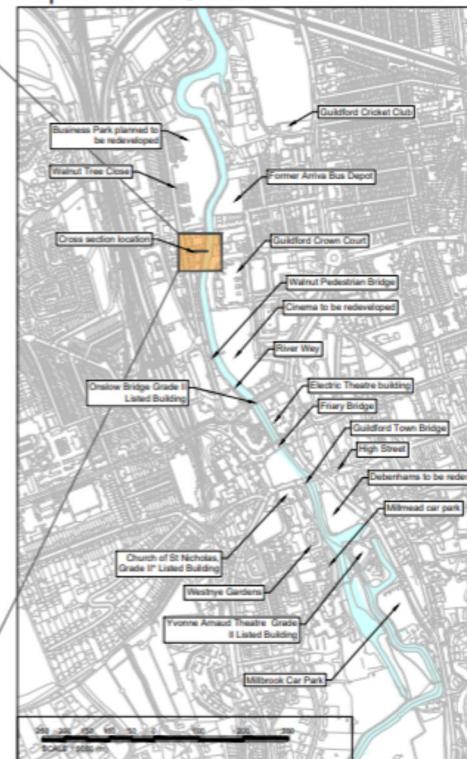
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Wey View Court location plan



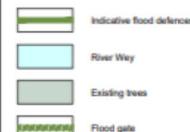
Map of central Guildford



General Notes

- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted otherwise.
- All co-ordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All levels are in metres above sea level.
- Defence plan size on website: 100cm (76.8 inches).
- Height of the defences are conditioned by proposed/flooded ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
- See Location Plan ENVM0520192-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0022
- Flood defences will also provide protection against a 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

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Document Control						

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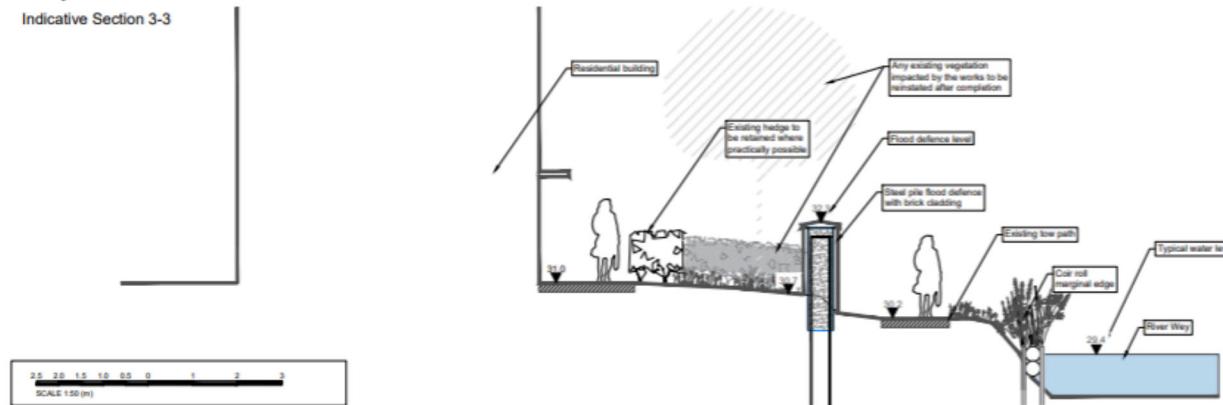
Wey View Court
Cross Section 3-3

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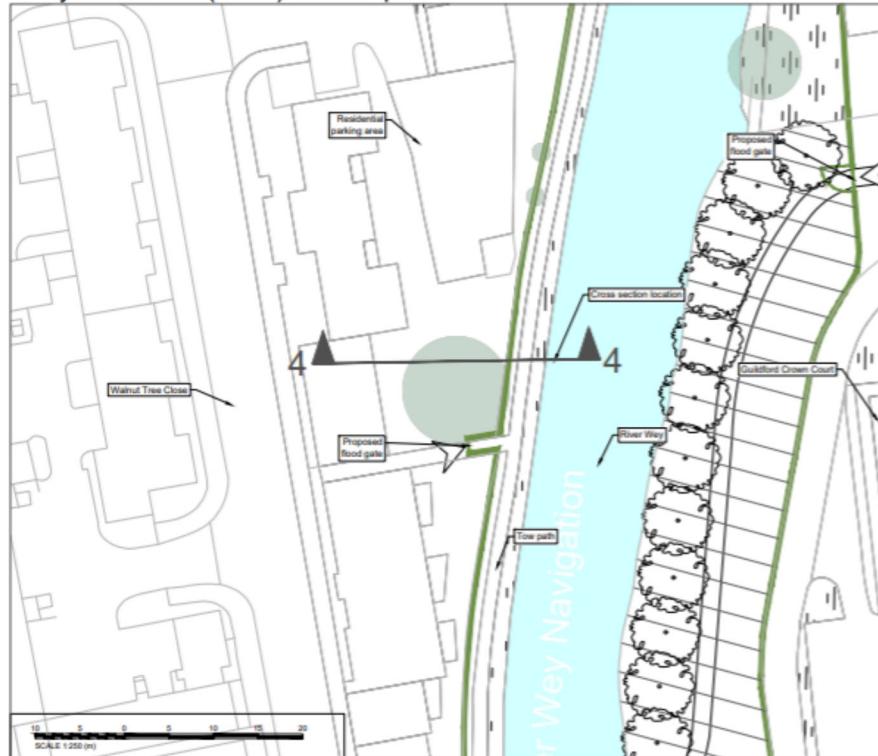
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A1 Sheet Size	P0.1

Wey View Court

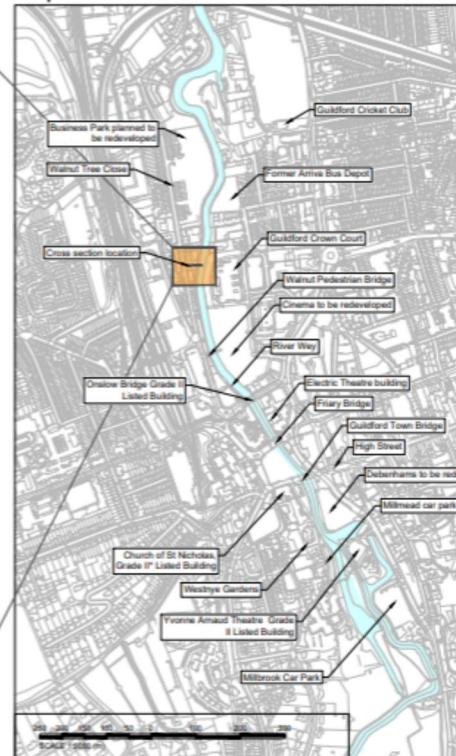
Indicative Section 3-3



Wey View Court (south) location plan



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

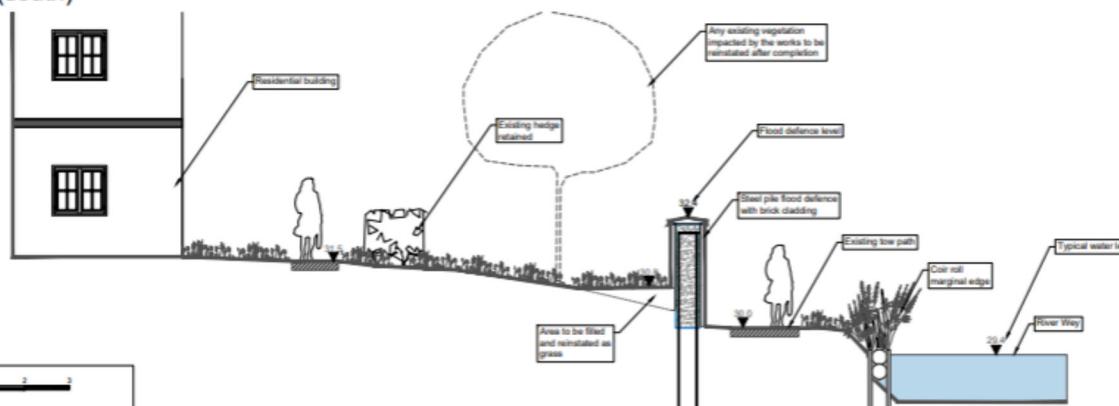
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- All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- All coordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Dimensions are not to scale. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All sections are indicative.
- Average people size on sections 180mm (7.0 inches).
- Height of the defences are conditioned by proposed existing ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints of the site.
- See Landscape Plan Sheet 7: ENVMSE500102-JAC-22-00-DR4-0023
- Flood defence levels should provide protection against a 22100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



Wey View Court (south)

Indicative Section 4-4



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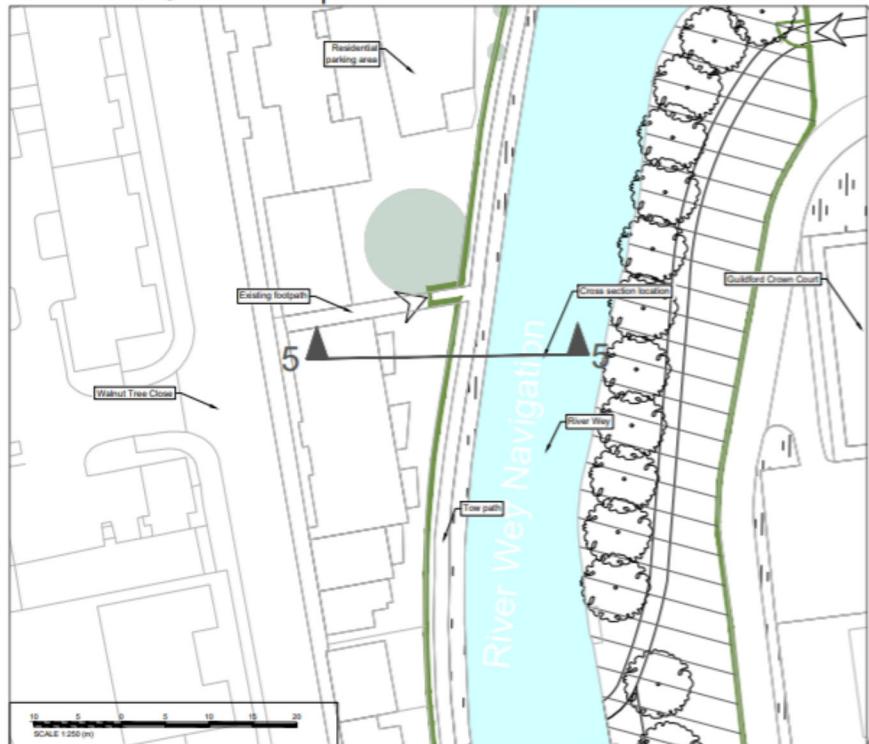
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Wey View Court (South)
Cross Section 4-4

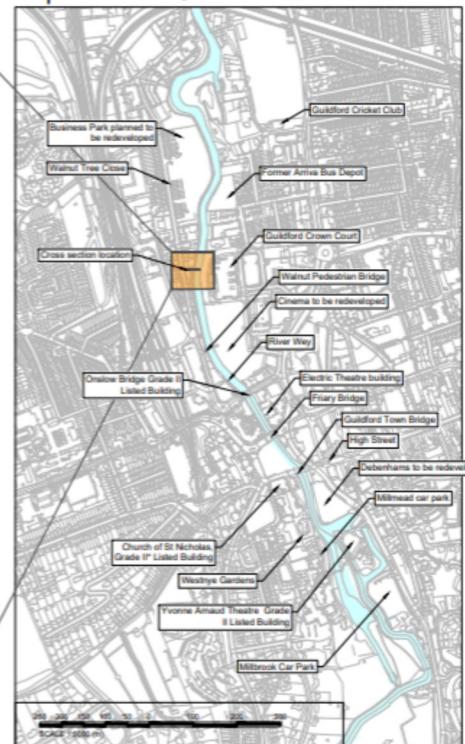
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Drawing Revision
Status
S2
Drawing Date
08/03/2024
Drawing Author
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Drawing Title
Wey View Court (South)
Cross Section 4-4

Walnut Tree Close location plan



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

1. All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
2. All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted otherwise.
3. All elevations are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
4. Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
5. All sections are indicative.
6. All dimensions are approximate. All dimensions are in metres.
7. Height of the defences are conditioned by programme/existing ground levels and they vary by location.
8. The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
9. See Landscape Plan Sheet 7: ENV/MSE50152-JAC-22-03-DR-L-0023
10. Protection levels will be determined by the height of the defence and a 100 year probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

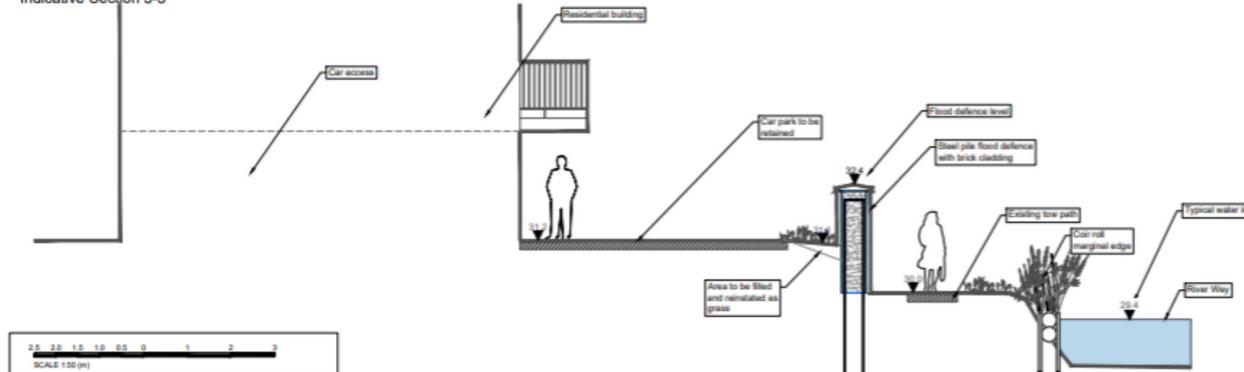
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Walnut Tree Close

Indicative Section 5-5



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Drawing Title: Walnut Tree Close Cross Section 5-5

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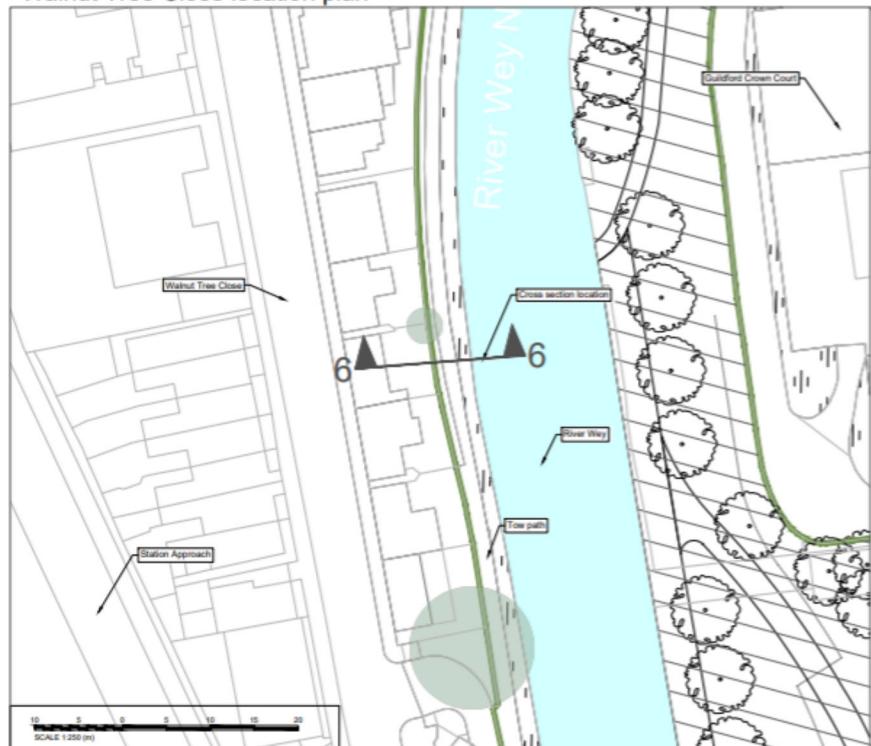
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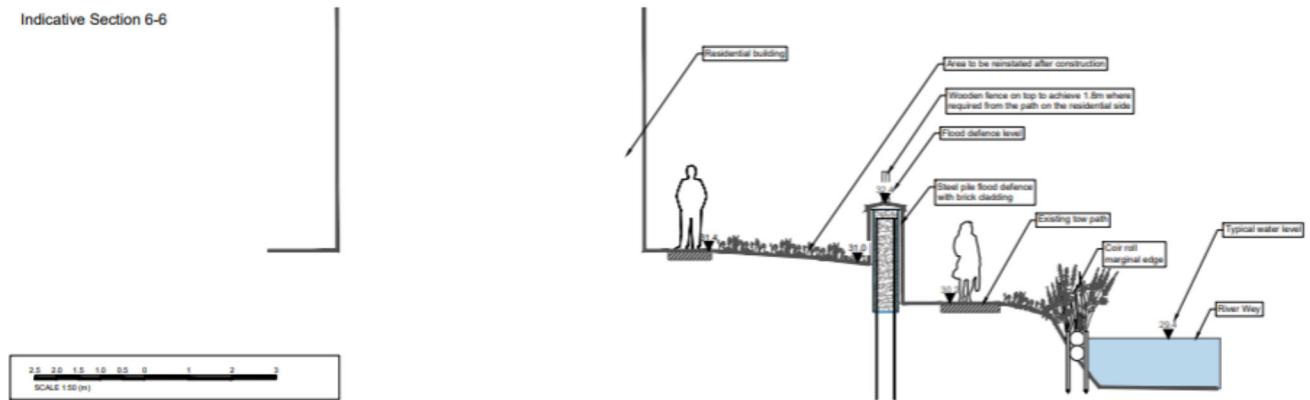
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Walnut Tree Close location plan

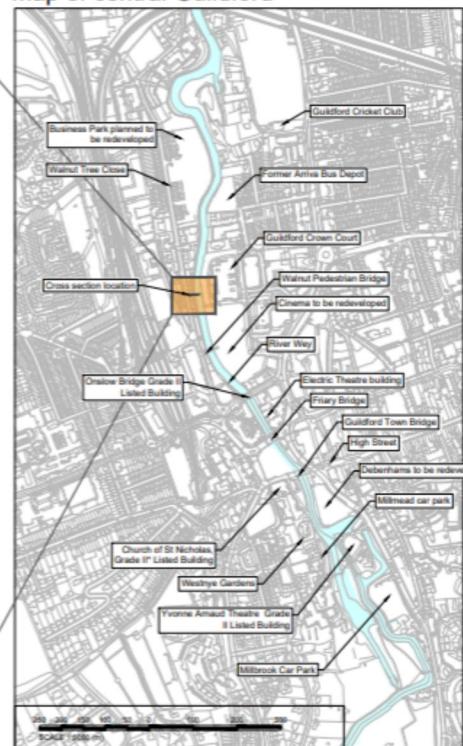


Walnut Tree Close

Indicative Section 6-6



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted.
- All coordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All sections are indicative.
- Area of proposed flood defence: 180m² (78.8 inches).
- Height of the defences are conditioned by proposed flooding ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
- Site Location Plan Sheet: ENV/MSE/0192-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0022
- Flood defences will provide protection against a 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



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Drawing Ref: Walnut Tree Close Cross Section 6-6

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Signatory:

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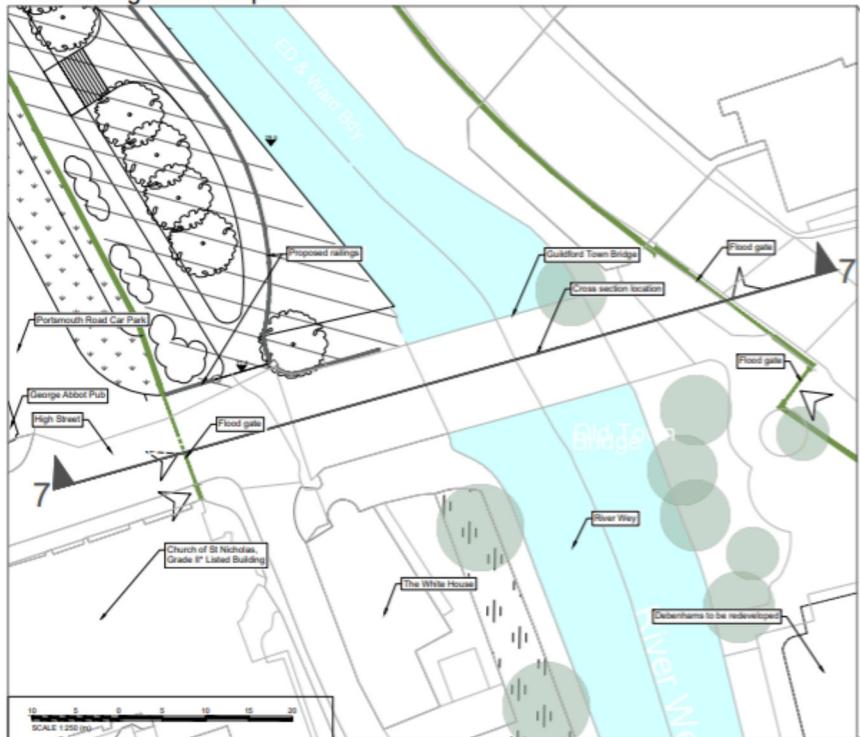
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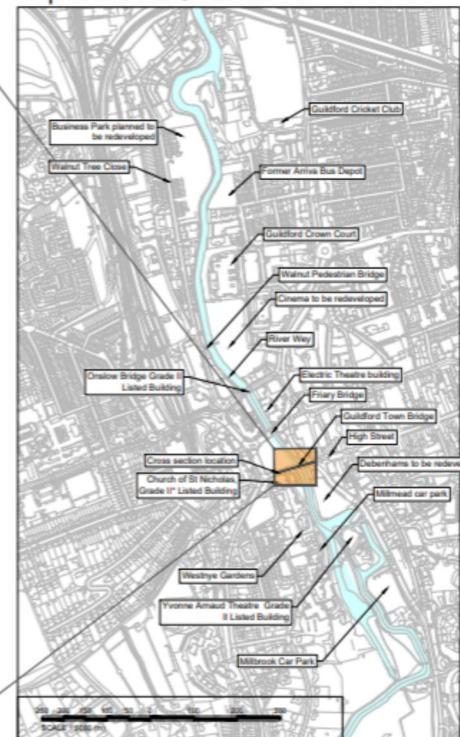
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Town Bridge location plan



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

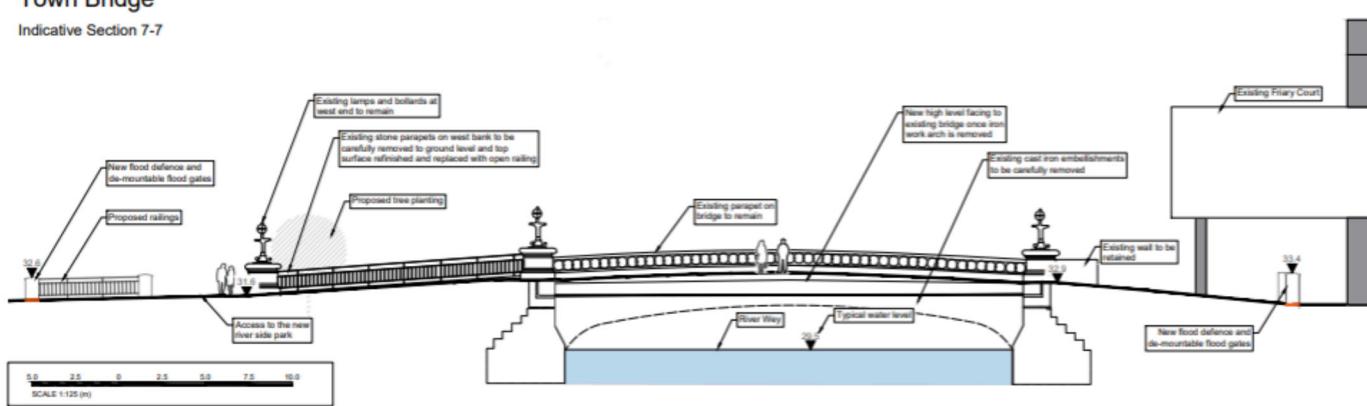
- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted.
- All co-ordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All dimensions are in metres.
- Average people size on sections: 180cm (70.8 inches).
- Height of the defences are conditioned by proposed/existing ground levels and they vary slightly.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in the off-site area.
- See Location Plan Sheet 7 ENV/MSE/500/192-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0033
- Flood defence levels shown provide protection against a 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



Town Bridge

Indicative Section 7-7



Jacobs

Guildford FAS

Town Bridge
Cross Section 7-7

Environment Agency

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Document Classification

Official

Date

Signator

Checker

Approver

Location

S2 - Suitable for Information

Page

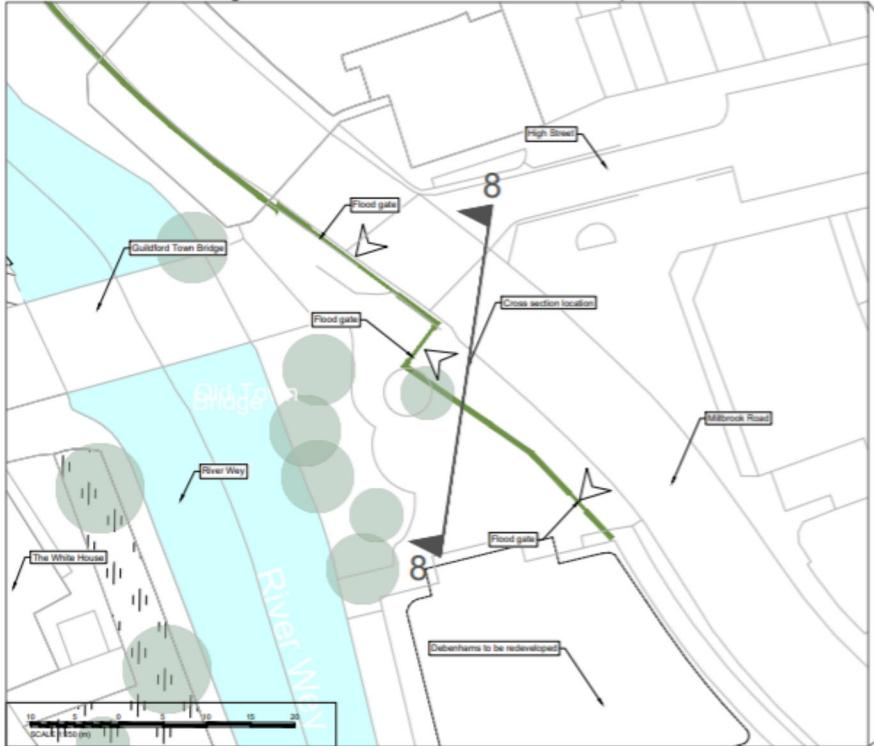
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Annotation Content

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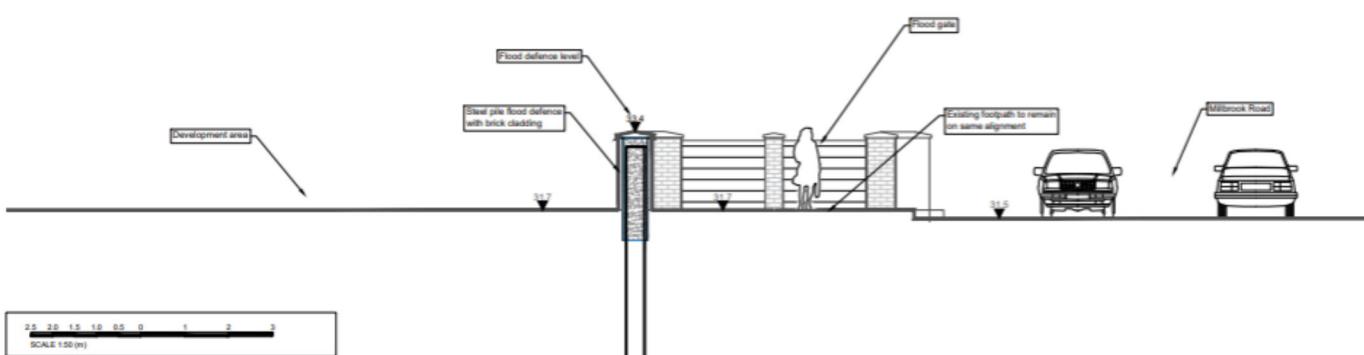
At Sheet Size

Between Town Bridge and former Debenhams location plan

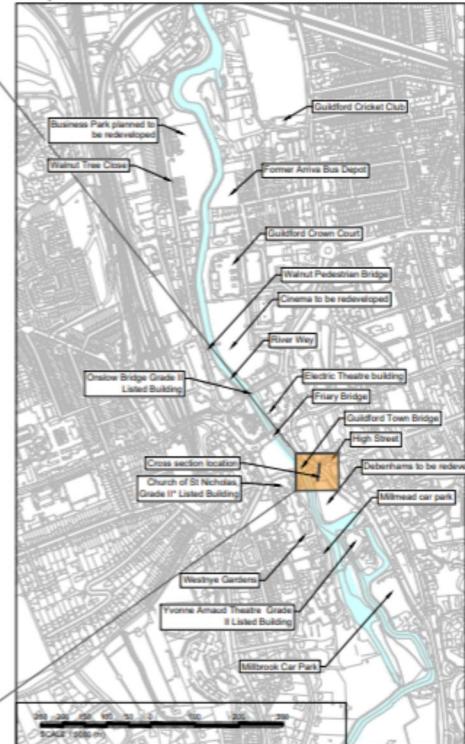


Between Town Bridge and former Debenhams

Indicative Section 8-8



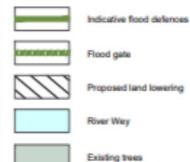
Map of central Guildford



General Notes

1. All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
2. All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
3. All coordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
4. Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
5. All sections are indicative.
6. All elevations are in metres above Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mODN) at a 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.
7. Height of the defences are conditioned by proposed existing ground levels and they vary by location.
8. Height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
9. See Landscape Plan Sheet 7: ENVMSE500152-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0032.
10. Flood defence levels are conditioned by proposed existing ground levels and a 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



Ref	Page	Section	Date	Signatory	Reviewer	Approver

Jacobs

Guildford FAS

Drawing No: Between Town Bridge and former Debenhams Cross Section 8-8

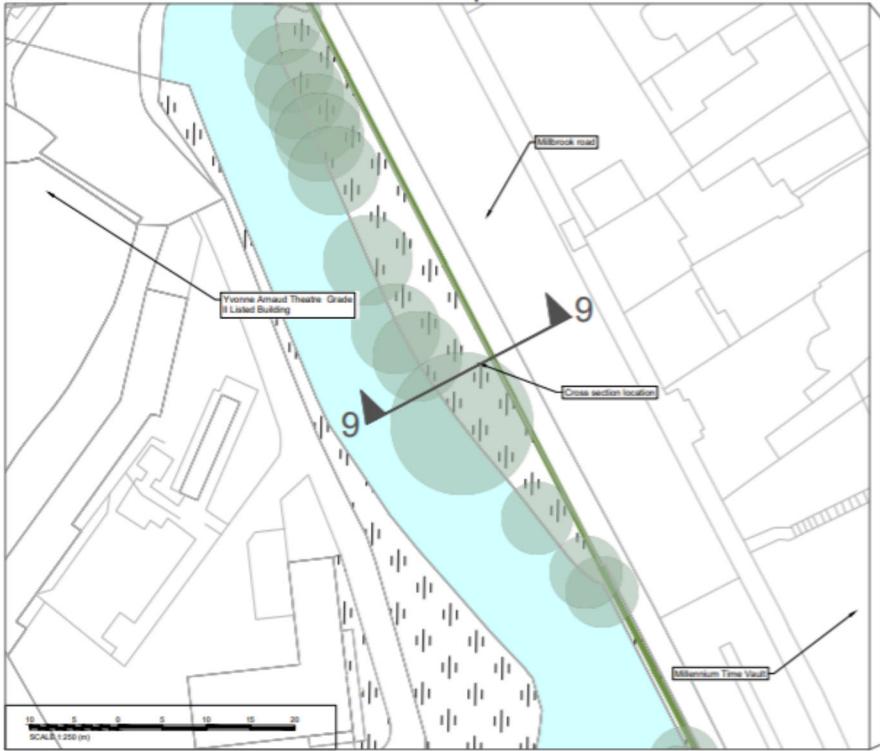


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Project No:		Date:	
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Drawing Title:		Reviewer:	
Scale:		Approver:	
Sheet No:		Page No:	
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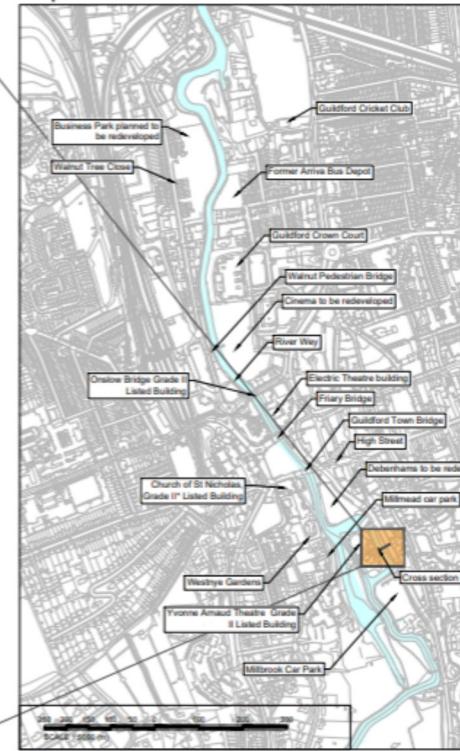
Information Controller: ENVMSE500152-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0032

At Sheet Size

Millbrook road south of Town Mill location plan



Map of central Guildford



General Notes

- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted otherwise.
- Distances are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
- All sections are indicative.
- Indicative flood defence height: 180cm (70.8 inches).
- Height of the defences will be conditioned by proposed existing ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
- See Landscape Plan Sheet 7: ENV/MS/SE/00192-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0023
- Indicative flood defence height: 180cm (70.8 inches) at 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL Environment Agency SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

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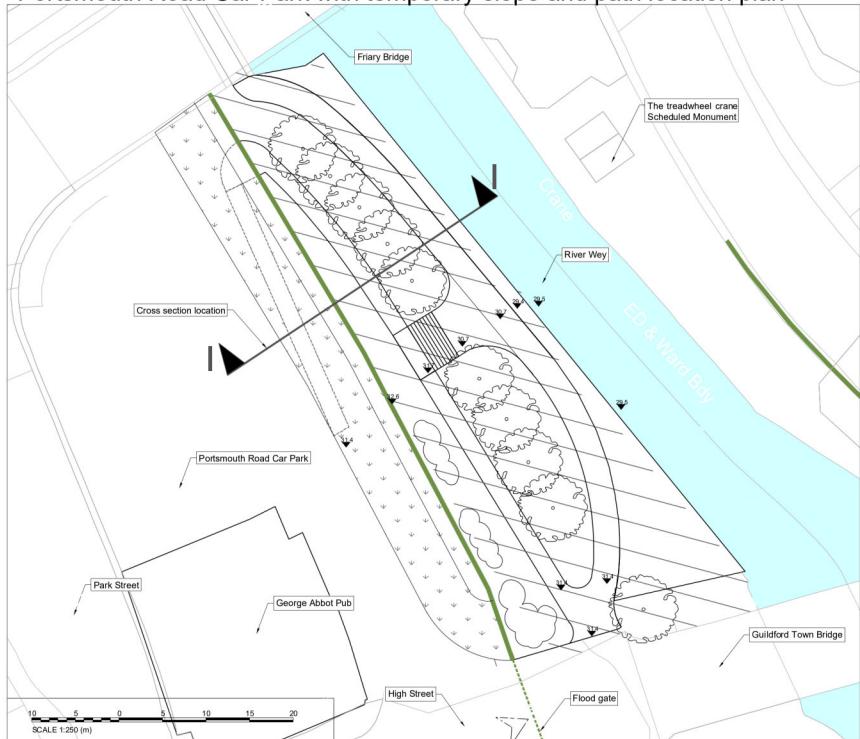
Guildford FAS

Drawing Title: Millbrook road south of Town Mill
Cross Section 9-9

Environment Agency

Drawing Number:		ENV/MS/SE/00192-JAC-22-00-DR-L-0039.dwg
Security Classification:		Official
Originator:	Checklist	Supervisor
Acceptability:	Approved	Revised
Information Content:	SB	P01.1

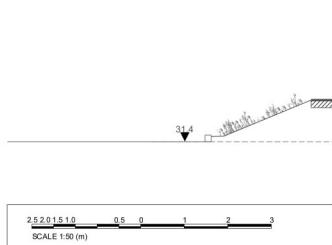
Portsmouth Road Car Park with temporary slope and path location plan



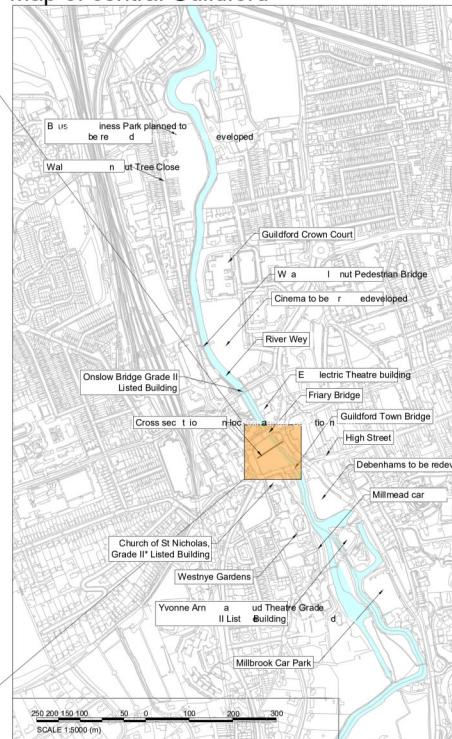
Portsmouth Road Car Park with temporary slope and path

Indicative Section I-I

EA are collaborating with Guildford Borough Council (GBC) to consider their regeneration aspirations on the 'dry side'. The regeneration proposals and timescales will be established by GBC.



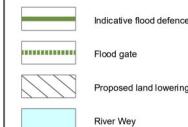
Map of central Guildford



General Notes

- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
- Distances are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mOD) unless noted otherwise.
- All co-ordinates are metres relative to Ordnance Survey national grid.
- Do not use this drawing. A dimension must be checked / verified on site.
- All sections are indicative.
- Average people size on land is 180cm (70 inches).
- Heights of defences are conditioned by proposed/existing ground levels and they vary by location.
- The height of the defences will also vary depending on the physical features and constraints in different locations.
- See Landscape Plan Sheet 7 ENVIMSE50192-JAC-ZZ-00-DR-L-002 for proposed flood protection against a 1:100 annual probability flood event with an allowance for future climate change.

LEGEND



S01.1	S2	1st issue	14/10/25	—	—	—
Rev. S/s. Description		Date	Originator	Checker	Reviewer	Approver
Document Control						

Supplier	Jacobs.					
Project Title	Guildford FAS					
Drawing Title	Portsmouth Road Car Park Cross Section I-I					
Environment Agency	 Environment Agency © copyright reserved Parent Model ENVIMSE50192-JAC-ZZ-00-DR-L-002.dwg					
General Classification	Official	Scale				
Originator	Reviewer	Approver				
Suitability	S2 - Suitable for Information					
Status	Released S2					
Revision	P01.1					
A1 Sheet Size						

Ground investigation works



Ground investigation works have been undertaken around the scheme area. This involved digging holes, drilling and sampling.

The information obtained will allow us to progress the scheme and ensure we find the best possible design.

The information will help us plan how we might reuse or recycle material.



Progress 2024/2025



Headlines

We have worked with our partners Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council to establish flood defence proposals.

Our current scheme proposals are based on a Standard of Protection of 1 in 100 + Climate Change.

Project and technical progress

✓
We have updated the scheme costs and economics to reflect the outline design

✓
We have updated the River Wey hydrology (flow predictions) and baseline hydraulic model

✓
We have used our findings to update the flood defence alignment, which is now around 2km

✓
We have found solutions to constrictions to flood flows at key locations

Surface water
We are continuing to work in partnership with Surrey County Council, the lead local flood authority, to review how to sustainably manage surface water flood risk

We have completed our outline design, which includes over 50 technical drawings and landscape and environmental proposals.

✓
We have established 4 land lowering locations to provide more space for water and to restore a more natural flood plain

Survey works

We have carried out ground investigations (boreholes and trial holes) and environmental surveys

We are working closely with the National Trust as the River Wey navigation authority

Engagement

We have:

- held a series of successful public engagement events and carried out feedback surveys to inform the scheme design
- published digital communications including scheme newsletters and social media.
- continued our ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, including landowners and community groups

Project progress



Assessment

Completed
2022-2024

Appraisal

The target date to complete appraisal remains 2026. This depends on funding and approval of our Outline Business Case.

Detailed design and planning permission

This includes completion of the detailed design, and submission and approval of the planning application.

Construction

The duration of construction will depend on the final detailed design, as well as co-ordination with developer proposals and Guildford Borough Council aspirations.



What's next for the scheme?



Up to the next project milestone (Outline Business Case)



We will establish funding routes to help ensure the scheme is financially viable.



We will prepare and submit our Outline Business Case. This provides justification for the scheme.



Our Outline Business Case will then need to be approved by an independent assurance team.



We will continue to engage with the public, landowners, developers and community groups.

After Outline Business Case



We will complete the detailed design of the scheme.



We will submit our planning application and seek to obtain necessary approvals and consents.



We will appoint a contractor and establish construction costs.



We will update total project costs and economics to reflect the detailed design.



We will then prepare our Full Business Case to confirm that the project remains affordable and achievable.



Approval of our Full Business Case will lead to the construction stage.



Investing in the future



Delivering a scheme of this scale represents a major investment in Guildford's future.

This investment will deliver:

- Stronger flood resilience
- Better protection for homes and businesses
- New public spaces for the community

How much will the scheme cost?

The final figure will be confirmed during the detailed design stage and costs may change due to:

- Technical adjustments as the design progresses
- Ground conditions and land requirements
- Planning permission conditions
- Construction period length and inflation
- Other unforeseen challenges

How will it be funded?

The Government's October 2025 partnership funding reform unlocks £10.5 billion for flood defences across England. These changes aim to speed up delivery of projects to better support vulnerable communities.

The final cost of the Guildford scheme will be confirmed during the detailed design stage. Partnership funding is still required from partners and local beneficiaries but the October 2025 reform means this will only need to cover 10% of the total scheme cost.

As a partnership, we need to agree a clear funding strategy, and ideally secure funding agreement, by March 2026. This will set out how we will plan to obtain the partnership funding required and will place us in the strongest possible position to be prioritised within the national programme.

Surface water flood risk



What is the difference between fluvial and surface water flooding?

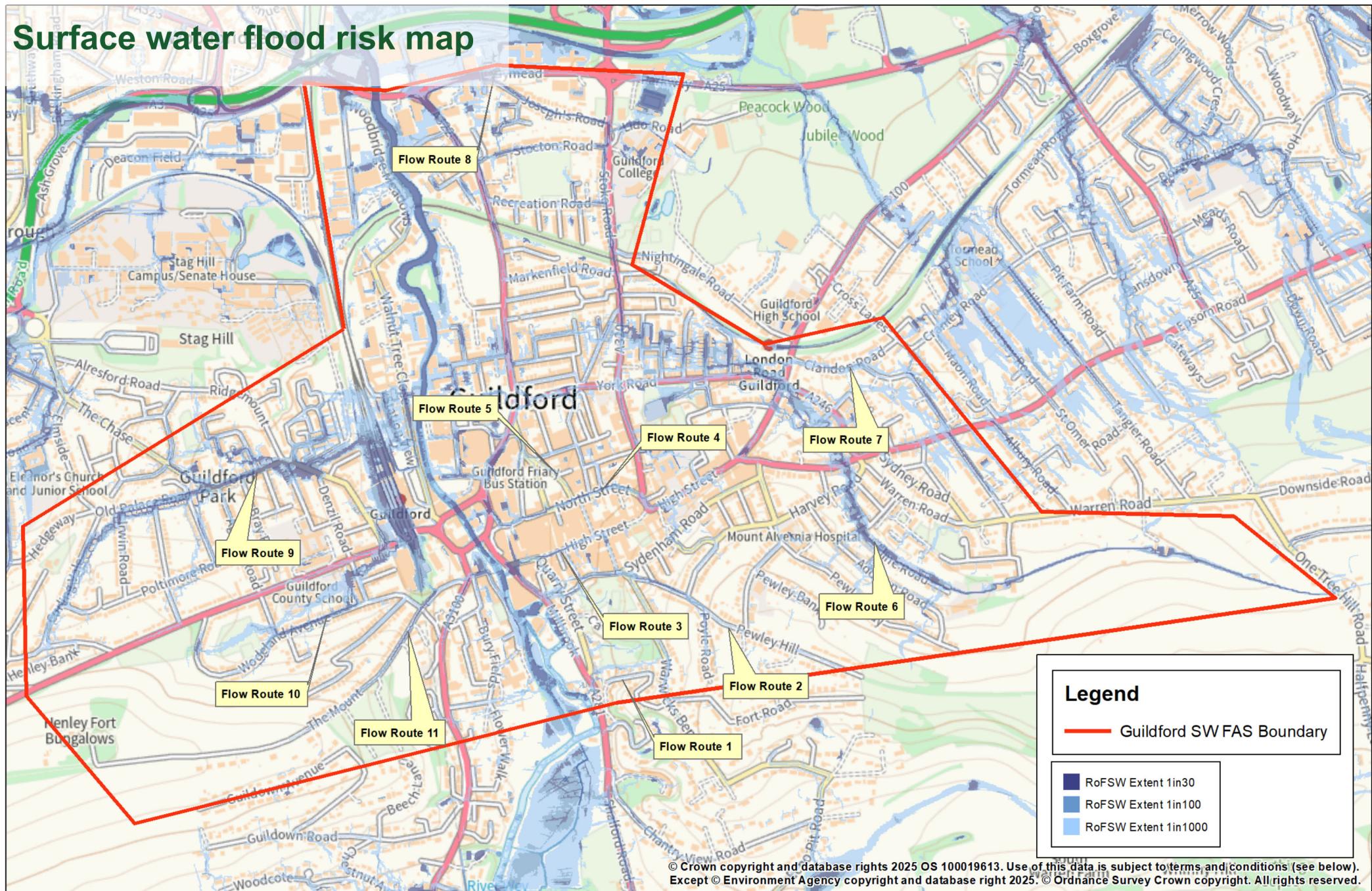
Fluvial flooding is from the river. Surface water flooding is where drainage systems cannot cope.

Guildford is at risk of flooding both from the river (fluvial) as a result of high river levels and flows exceeding the capacity of the river channel, as well as surface water flooding as a result of intense rainfall within Guildford itself, which exceeds the capacity of the urban drainage system of Guildford.

How are we working with Surrey County Council to reduce overall flood risk?

We are working with Surrey County Council (SCC), the lead local flood authority, to review how to sustainably manage surface water flood risk. SCC have carried out modelling to better understand surface water flood risk and the volume of surface water we are looking to manage within the town. We have used the results of this modelling to ensure surface water flows are allowed for in the design of the Guildford Flood Alleviation Scheme. This will ensure the Guildford FAS does not make surface water flood risk worse.

Surface water flood risk map



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Surface water scheme update



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Surrey County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, is carrying out a feasibility study for a surface water flood alleviation scheme in Guildford. This would run in parallel with the fluvial flood alleviation scheme on the River Wey.

Surrey County Council engaged its Technical Services provider (AtkinsRealis) to produce a computer model of the potential surface water flood risk in the area. This particular flood risk is associated with the water that flows into the town centre from the outskirts of town, through pipes and ditches that are unable to cope during heavy rainfall events.

AtkinsRealis have created a computer model which has fed into the fluvial flood scheme model. This will ensure that both schemes work together to achieve the most efficient methods of addressing both fluvial and surface water flood risk. The study has already identified numerous surface water routes that travel into the town centre either along roads or through gardens and properties.

In addition to its work on the proposed scheme, Surrey County Council is carrying out investigations on recent flooding incidents and working with developers to maximise the surface water attenuation they can provide to town centre.

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guildford-flood-alleviation-scheme](http://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/guildford-flood-alleviation-scheme)



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