



Flood risk in Woodford

Update on Woodford Flood Alleviation Scheme

February 2015

Since July 2013 the Environment Agency and London Borough Redbridge have been working together to investigate the recommendations made in the Roding Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy for a flood alleviation scheme in Woodford. Although we are yet to complete these investigations, we have made significant progress. Parts of Woodford are now protected from a flood with a 1.33% (1 in 75) chance of occurring every year or greater, and we have achieved this without the need for major works.

Roding FRM Strategy

In 2012 the Environment Agency adopted the River Roding FRM Strategy, which made recommendations to reduce flood risk in Woodford.

The recommendations were:

- to create a flood storage area at Chigwell Road, and
- to install two pumping stations within the local drainage network.

These proposals intended to reduce the risk of flooding to properties in the Woodford area. We wanted to achieve a standard of protection of 1 in 75 (1.33%) chance of flooding every year.

Our investigations

In order to have a more in depth look at these recommendations, we used the latest software to develop detailed flood modelling of the River Roding and local drainage network in Woodford. The modelling revealed a more simple solution to reduce the flood risk in Woodford.

Works in Ray Park

In times of high water levels, the greatest risk of flooding in Woodford was from the River Roding. In particular, water from the river would overtop the banks into Ray Park.

An embankment around the edge of Ray Park acted as a wall to enclose the flood waters in the park.

However, the modelling showed one section of the bank was lower than the rest. This opened a route for flood flows from the river into the residential area to the south of the park. If we increased the height of this section, the embankment would act as a defence and contain flood waters in the park. We completed this work between September and November 2014.

This embankment, in combination with further embankment repairs and new flap valves installed by London Borough of Redbridge and Thames Water, now protects almost 400 properties in Woodford from flood events up to a 1.3% (1 in 75) chance of occurring each year. We will update our flood maps to reflect this later this year.

As these works have provided the intended level of protection from flooding, we will not need to proceed with the recommendations made for Woodford in the strategy.

Risk of flooding from surface water

The strategy also identified that as well as flooding from the River Roding, Woodford also suffers from surface water flooding. We will now be working together to investigate this surface water flood risk. We expect to be able to share the final report of our completed investigations in summer 2015.

To find out more

For more information on the works in **Woodford** contact London Borough of Redbridge at smitha.sujith@redbridge.gov.uk or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk.

For more information on the **Roding Flood Risk Management Strategy** contact the Environment Agency at RodingStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-roding-flood-risk-management-scheme.