

North and East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Schemes

Plans to create flood protection schemes at three locations in Thatcham are progressing.

The council is pleased to inform you that planning applications have submitted for three more flood protection schemes in Thatcham near to Bowling Green Road, Heath Lane and Siege Cross off Floral Way.

These projects are part of an ongoing programme of work to protect Thatcham following the severe flooding that occurred in 2007. At that time, Thatcham suffered widespread surface water flooding effecting at least 1,100 houses, causing severe hardship and economic losses for both residents and local businesses.

In 2010, the council, together with the Environment Agency and Thames Water, produced a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for Thatcham. This involved looking at detail at the surface water flow routes in the rural catchments above Thatcham where the flood water came from.

The SWMP identified a series of strategic flood defence schemes located around Thatcham that will significantly reduce the risk of future flooding. The proposed schemes will add to the protection already provided by the completed schemes at Tull Way, Dunstan Park, Cold Ash Hill, Dunstan Green and Siege Cross Park.

The schemes comprise of attenuation basins that will capture and store flood water during a severe storm and then release it at a controlled rate into existing underground sewers. This will prevent the sewer inlets becoming overwhelmed and causing the water to spill over and flow above ground through Thatcham. This was the main cause of the flooding in 2007.

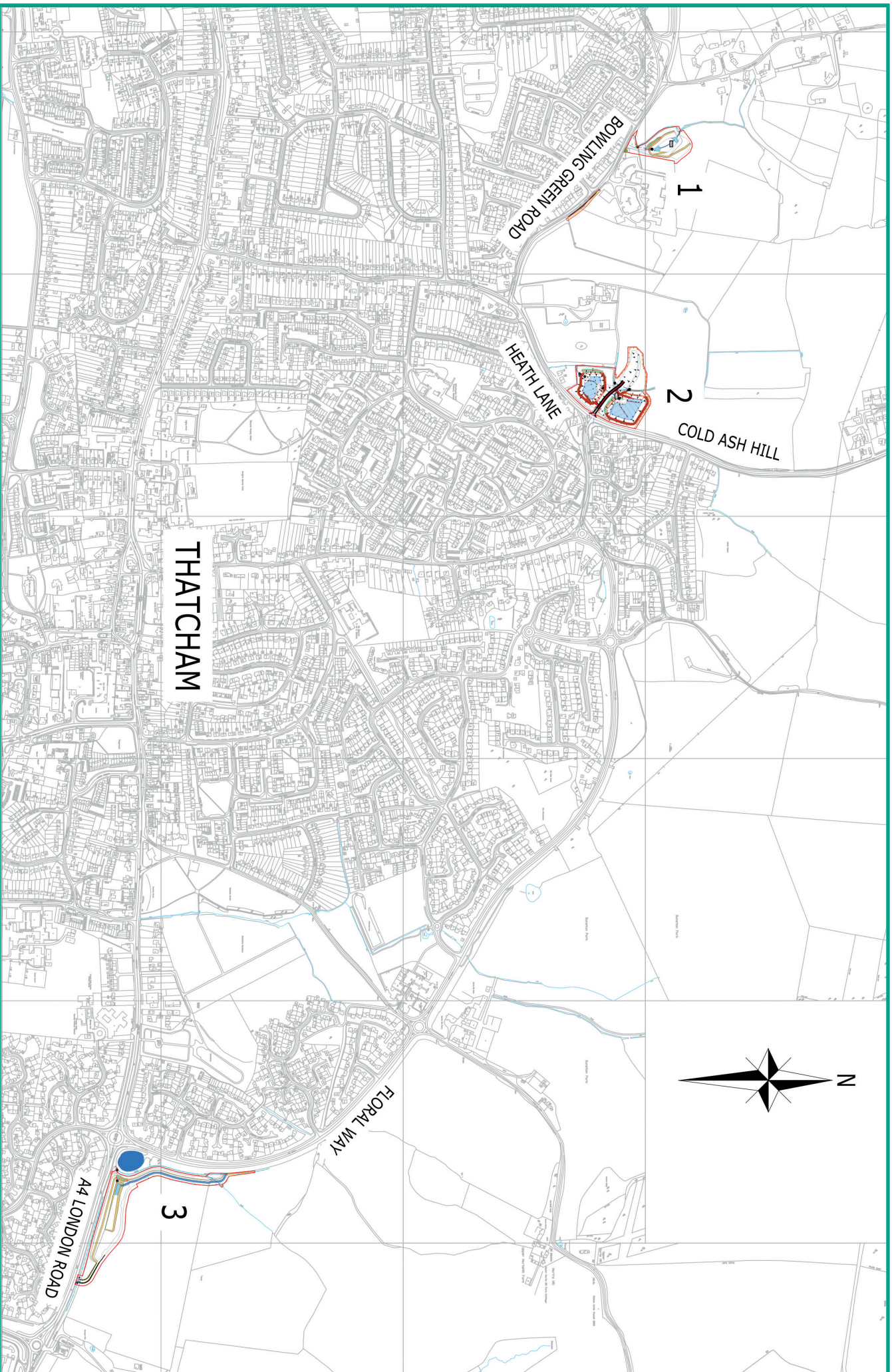
The flood defences have been designed to provide a level of protection up to a 1 in 100 year storm, and a further 40% allowance has been added to take into account future climate change.

The construction of the schemes will be funded from grants awarded to West Berkshire Council by the Environment Agency and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

The soil excavated to create the basins will be used to form earth bunds to increase the amount of stored water and remainder set aside on highway verges to reduce costs and the carbon footprint of the construction works.

We would welcome your comments on the proposals. Details can be found on the council's planning portal, at planning application numbers 21/03079/COMIND, 21/03135/COMIND and 21/03154/FUL.





If you have any queries regarding the schemes call [Stuart Clark \(01635\) 510857](tel:01635510857) or email Stuart.clark@westberks.gov.uk