

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	18/10/24
Originator	Ian Chalmers
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Document Title	Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme MLS report - Appendix A.25

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Carlo Grilli
Designation	Service Manager - Governance
Date	18/10/24

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	104/24
Date Received	18/10/24
Bulletin	Oct 24

**Subject:** (0042) Letter of objection for Musselburgh flood protection scheme

**Sent:** 12/04/2024, 11:28:20

**From:** [REDACTED]

**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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Dear Team dealing with objections to the MFPS,

I write to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. I am a resident of Musselburgh, [REDACTED]. I write also as an ELC Council Tax contributor and out of concern for [REDACTED] any installation of a concrete barrier wall. I [REDACTED] will be within earshot of any pile-driving due to take place by the riverside (see below\*).

I object to the published scheme because:

- I regularly walk along the Esk riverside and this was one of my main reasons for choosing to live here. I have no desire to see a concrete wall and would prefer a nature-based solution;
- The land adjacent to the river is in many parts 'common good land' and as such, any interruption to their usage should be compensated for - is this going to happen and if so, from which funding source (but not from council tax of course)?
- \* For the duration of the scheme (an estimated five years until completion?!) it will involve extensive pile-driving along the riverside. I do not want to hear this for the next five years. My house is situated [REDACTED]. I currently hear the pile-driving every day taking place at QMU. I do not wish to have the same noise coming from the river;
- I do not agree that the scheme is the most cost-efficient option and am concerned that this will increase our Council Tax;
- I have not had the opportunity to access the alternative proposals that were ruled out when the EIA was being put together;
- I am unhappy that when residents asked to see the data underpinning the scientific calculations made by the project team that these requests were ignored. Is this information being withheld?;
- I believe that man-made interventions cannot prevent flooding downstream – I would prefer the focus to be on more preventative work upstream to slow and/or store the water before it reaches Musselburgh.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** (0043) Objection re Musselburgh Flood Protection scheme.

**Sent:** 12/04/2024, 12:45:37

**From:** [Redacted]

**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

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Thursday, 11th April.

Carlo Grilli,  
Service Manager—Governance  
Legal Services,  
East Lothian Council,  
John Muir House,  
Haddington,  
EH41 3HA

Objection to the felling of trees.

Trees give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give shelter to wildlife. They are vitally important for the well-being of people and in East Lothian's declared nature crisis, for the prosperity of local biodiversity.

I object to trees being felled to enable engineering work to take place or so that their ground space can be infilled with concrete for Bund support or ramps. Hundreds of trees are being planted elsewhere in our county. During the past year, 200 trees were planted along the river Tyne, in Haddington; the town that has notoriously flooded dramatically .

I acknowledge that Jacobs are aware of the public's attitude and have made an effort to reduce the loss of trees. We have certainly NOT been informed with any clarity of the exact number of trees to be felled . Traffic light information is, to say the least, misleading and also indefinite. While over the whole of Britain, trees are being planted, we are reducing our stock for an engineered scheme which is not urgently required and which might well be unable to provide flood protection by the time it is needed.

Trees purify the air and combat climate change.  
Trees cool streets in town and countryside.  
TREES PROTECT AGAINST FLOOD AND POLLUTION.  
Trees massively reduce the amount of rainwater entering watercourses.  
Trees ease the mind during stressful times.  
In urban areas especially, trees benefit mental and physical wellbeing.  
Our mature trees absorb carbon and lock it up.  
Replacement saplings cannot match the mature trees in carbon absorption.  
The respiratory and mental health of local citizens is being put at risk by this over engineered scheme which will involve years of disruption.  
Concrete releases an extremely high amount of CO2 and will pollute our environment.  
Please think again and make full use of one of Musselburgh's greatest assets: her beautiful and valued mature trees.

Yours faithfully and sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]



**Subject:** (0044) FW: MFPS - Scheme notification to Key Stakeholders - provision electronically  
**Sent:** 12/04/2024, 15:23:50  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections  
**Attachments:** [BHSS Response to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme 2024.pdf](#)

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[REDACTED]

### The British Horse Society

The British Horse Society Scotland, Suite A3, Stirling Agricultural Centre,  
Stirling FK9 4RN

Telephone: [REDACTED]


Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

Whatever your path with horses, we're by your side every step of the way.

Donate today and together, we can [Keep Britain Riding](#).



The British Horse Society

We're by your side every step of the way.

Help us to Keep Britain Riding

[Donate](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:08 PM  
**To:** 'Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme' <[musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: MFPS - Scheme notification to Key Stakeholders - provision electronically  
Thank you for the Scheme Notification. Please find attached our response.  
Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

From: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme <[musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk)>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:30 PM  
Subject: MFPS - Scheme notification to Key Stakeholders - provision electronically

You don't often get email from [musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of The BHS. Use caution when actioning, replying, clicking links, or opening attachments..**

Good afternoon,  
You are receiving this email as you have been identified as a Key Stakeholder on the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

1. Scheme Notification

The Proposed Scheme will be published on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 in accordance with The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and The Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (as amended). Please see attached copy of letter to Key Stakeholders and Scheme notification.

Kind Regards,  
Rachael Warrington  
Stakeholder Manager - Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme  
Structures and Flooding  
East Lothian Council | Road Services | Infrastructure | Partnerships & Community Services  
Penston House | Macmerry Industrial Estate | Macmerry | East Lothian | EH33 1EX  
[REDACTED] | [rwarrington@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:rwarrington@eastlothian.gov.uk)



\*\*\*\*\*  
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Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour is never acceptable. #zerotolerance

We're living through stressful times right now, and everyone's feeling it.

Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



**BE NICE**  
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU

**This email is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or individuals to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The British Horse Society or associated companies. If you are not the intended recipient be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error please contact the sender. The British Horse Society is an Appointed Representative of South Essex Insurance Brokers Ltd, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.**

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

The British Horse Society

Email [REDACTED]

Scotland

Website [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

Suite A3

Tel [REDACTED]

Stirling Agricultural Centre

Mob [REDACTED]

Bringing horses and people together

Stirling FK9 4RN



By email to: [musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk)

12.04.2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Scheme. As an equestrian charity, which aims to protect and promote the interests of all horses and those who care for them, our interest in these proposals is restricted to access to safe, off-road riding routes.

The British Horse Society (The BHS) represents the interests of the 3.4 million people in the UK who ride or who drive horse-drawn vehicles and is the largest and most influential equestrian charity in the UK. The BHS is committed to promoting the interests of all equestrians and the wellbeing of horses and ponies through our work in education, welfare, safety and access.

Access to safe off-road riding routes is vital to the health and wellbeing of horses and their riders. Under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, equestrians have the same rights of access to the outdoors as other non-motorised users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. Equestrian use should therefore be included when planning and designing access to greenspaces, path networks and active travel routes. Considering equestrians in the early stages ensures that projects like this are an opportunity to preserve and improve access for all, rather than restrict it to certain groups.

In particular, Musselburgh beach is used by horse riders regularly, and has been for hundreds of years, and is hugely valued by them as a safe, off-road, place to exercise their horses. Local horse riders are anxious to ensure that access to this important resource and part of East Lothian's equestrian heritage is maintained.

#### **Beach access points**

Throughout the Scheme Documents, beach access points are marked as "Proposed pedestrian footpath". Every access point needs to be suitable for all non-motorised users, including horse riders. Restricting access to the beach to pedestrians would not be in line with East Lothian Council's statutory duty under Section 13 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to protect access rights.

Similarly, throughout the Scheme Documents, proposed paths are marked as "Proposed pedestrian footpath" when in fact many, if not all of them, are covered by access rights and should be accessible to all non-motorised users, including horse riders.

It is especially disappointing to note this incorrect and exclusory terminology given that the BHS and many local horse riders took the time to take part in the community consultation. It is discouraging that our comments have not been taken into account and I am concerned that the design and construction of these components will not be appropriate for equestrian use.

The BHS has a wealth of knowledge and experience of materials and infrastructure that are suitable for horse use, and we would be happy to work with East Lothian Council on the design of structures like paths, ramps and bridges to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

The British Horse Society is an Appointed Representative of South Essex Insurance Brokers Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

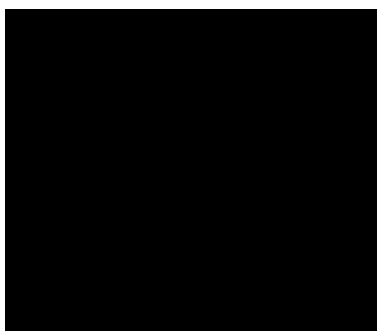
Registered Charity Nos. 210504 and SC038516. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No. 444742

**Active Travel and Suitable Infrastructure**

Active travel routes are also used by the public as recreational routes and are highly valued as such. The development of active travel routes should not prevent or discourage recreational users, including equestrians, from exercising their access rights. Horses can be used for active travel, and there are riders and carriage drivers who do so, but equestrians are often not considered in active travel plans. By choosing surfaces and infrastructure that are appropriate for horses, it is possible to ensure that routes are suitable for all to use, whether their purpose is active travel or recreation.

I trust that the above information is of assistance. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the needs of equestrians further, please do contact me.

Kind regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2024 17:05  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; musselburghcrusaders@gmail.com  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** (0045) Scheme Notification to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme - response from Musselburgh Crusaders  
**Attachments:** Musselburgh Crusaders Riding Club - response to Flood Protection Scheme 2024.docx  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Mr Grilli, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the scheme notification. I am writing to object to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme and attach a word document with a response in full from the Musselburgh Crusaders. The response contains my full name, address, postcode, contact details and details of my objection. As the response has been sent electronically, please reply to this email to confirm you have received the email and are able to read the attached word document. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps and timeline.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
Musselburgh Crusaders Riding Club

Musselburgh Crusaders Riding Club

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
10/4/2024

Mr Carlo Grilli

Service Manager – Governance

Legal Services

East Lothian Council

John Muir House

Haddington

EH41 3HA

Dear Mr Grilli,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the scheme notification. I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme 2024.

I object to the published scheme because:

1. The scheme removes access to the beach for horse riders. The Musselburgh Crusaders Riding Club gallop along Musselburgh beach during the Crusaders Chase Ride Out in July each year and an annual ride has been held every year since 1936.
2. Musselburgh Coastal Change Assessment (Feb 24) confirms that there has been no erosion on the beach. In fact, P14 confirms a positive trend with the beach face and dunes building up to 1m of sediment (figure 9A on the report). This highlights that a concrete flood wall is not required. P18 of the report confirms that the gains have been 168 metres cubed indicating long term stabilisation and growth.
3. Thousands of residents line the promenade and top of the beach to watch the Crusaders Chase Ride out each year. If a concrete flood defence wall was built this would prevent the community from watching the horses galloping along the beach. Many of the spectators are children who would not be tall enough to see over the wall.
4. The independent flood maps provided by SEPA P28, figure 19, Musselburgh Coastal Change Assessment, indicate that there may be a flood risk of 0.5% by 2080. So, over the next 56 years there is a potential flood risk of 0.5% and 99.5% chance that the area will not flood.
5. I object to 102 trees being removed from the banks of the Esk, this would have a huge environmental impact on the fish in the river and habitat destruction of the wildlife that live on the banks of the Esk.
6. On the scheme notification the estimated cost of the scheme is £103,535,000. This is unnecessary expenditure of Scottish Taxpayers money as the SEPA evidence confirms there is only a 0.5% possibility of flooding over the next 56 years.

7. The works to implement these concrete flood defence walls, metal flood gates, knocking down trees would be awful for residents in terms of noise pollution as the piling for the flats at the Brunton wireworks in the centre of Musselburgh could be heard up at Stoneybank.
8. Disruption to traffic as Eskside West is to be converted to one way traffic.
9. Materials for building the paths and embankments at Fisherrow Links will be stored on the common good land at Fisherrow Links and prevent local children playing on the links on the grassy areas which they can at present.
10. The schedule of works indicates that works materials and equipment would be stored along the Promenade and Fisherrow Links. This would prevent us having our Junior Ride Out which we hold every year for local children, to ride through the town, along the Promenade and along Fisherrow Links.
11. Musselburgh Active Travel plans to include 5metre wide concrete paths along the riverbank have been included. These are not relevant to flood protection. Active travel requires planning permission which should be sought separately from the flood protection proposal.
12. The project have us noted as a stakeholder who will be impacted by the plans, but we have had no consultation or engagement re plans or the impact they will have on our annual ride outs.
13. The ELC Shoreline Management Plan 2002 outlines coastal erosion and flooding issues and remains the current formal policy approach. "The shoreline is stable or accreting along MU1 thus erosion risk is low. Part of the shoreline of MU1 is natural with a low dune system separating the sand beach from the road and Fisherrow Links. This part of the shoreline is presently stable or accreting, although it is likely the dunes will undergo some temporary phases of erosion during winter storms. This is a natural coastal process and short- lived phases of erosion should not be considered a problem" Therefore, these facts highlight that no concrete flood defence wall is required.

I attended the public consultation in June 23 and spoke with the project manager Connor Price who advised that ramps suitable for equestrian use would be included in the design to allow horse riders to access the beach. I explained that the ramps would need to support 5000KG at any one time and be suitable for 10 horses to cross over at the same time.

I completed the feedback form at the consultation and asked that the Musselburgh Crusaders were kept up to date and engaged with any proposals. We have received no engagement or updates from the project. I emailed the project in February 2024 asking to be kept up to date and Ian has added our email to the stakeholder list.

Currently we access the beach at the end of Mountjoy terrace where the horses cross the grass onto the beach. The schedule of works 4.7, P16, WS07-01 details that an embankment with a wall will be built with a maximum height of 1.7 metres. WS07-02 details that Pedestrian access ramps will be constructed. Musselburgh beach is used regularly by horse riders and has been for hundreds of years and as vulnerable road users their needs should have been taken into account as part of the planning process and outline design. Under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, equestrians have the same rights of access to the outdoors as other non-motorised users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

All of the figures and data sets on the dynamic coastal report are based on data from the year 2000 projected forward. Why is the evidence not based on actual rates of coastal erosion and actual levels of change as they have data from 1890- 2023 to enable informed decisions to be made rather than using projected statistical modelling.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter of objection by email to [REDACTED] or in writing to the address above. Please advise me of the next steps and timescales involved.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** (0046) Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

**Sent:** 12/04/2024, 23:20:28

**From:** [Redacted]

**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** [Redacted]

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**From:**  
[Redacted]

**To:** Carlo Grilli  
Service Manager Governance  
Legal Services  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
Haddington  
EH41 3HA

Dear Carlo Grilli  
I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.  
On 6 July 2023, I was granted Advertising Consent [Redacted]

[Redacted]. It is not clear to me from the Scheme's published plan whether this site will remain available, accessible, and conveniently readable by the public after the Flood Protection work is complete, but it appears to be centrally situated in the construction site: so my use of this area for the display of the information will certainly be compromised during the Construction, and perhaps also during the subsequent Operation of the Scheme.  
I would expect to withdraw this objection, if I receive satisfactory [Redacted]

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection.  
Signed:

[Redacted Signature]

**Subject:** (0047) Objections to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme, [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13/04/2024, 12:12:14  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; Forrest, Andrew - Depute Provost; Cassini, Cher; McIntosh, Shona; Bennett, Ruaridh  
**Attachments:** [Flood scheme objection letter.docx](#)

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Please find attached my objection letter ref the proposed Musselburgh Floor Protection Scheme.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt.

A hard copy will follow in the post.

Best wishes  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

13 April 2024

Mr Carlo Grilli  
Service Manager  
Governance  
Legal Services  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
Haddington  
EH41 3HA

By email to: [mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Grilli

**Objection to proposed floor risk management scheme under the Flood Risk Management Act 2009**

I write to object to East Lothian Council's proposals for flood risk management project and the accompanying active travel project.

My reasons for objecting to the proposals are:

**Noise, vibration, pollution and disruption**

I expect to be severely affected by noise, construction traffic, vibration and pollution over a period of several years. The front door of my building is [REDACTED] from the proposed wall on [REDACTED].

I understand that the preparatory works will begin in 2025 with construction of the scheme starting in 2026 for three years to 2029, and then a period for defects from 2029 to 2031.

I understand that the scheme construction will be undertaken over six-day working weeks 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday. That means there will be little or no respite from noise and vibration, pollution and disruption.

That is a very long timescale to impose on anyone directly affected by the scheme. The construction on the river Esk alone is planned for three years with a 1700 meter squared working area.

I work from home, and this will directly impact my working life as well as my personal life over a long period of time. It could well pose a risk to my mental and physical health.

Environmental Health apparently recommend that noise should not exceed 70db 1 metre from an occupied room. My understanding is that the noise at my flat will regularly exceed that.

The Environmental Impact Assessment states that there will be unavoidable significant adverse effects during construction and for years afterwards.

I expect to be directly affected by the piling work for the deep foundations for the wall both on my side of the river and across the river. I believe the wall outside my building will be [REDACTED] meters tall in total with 5 metres required underground.

There is a risk that that deep foundations will prevent surface water from draining, and pumping stations are planned along the river including on Eskside West. The construction of these will generate more noise, vibration and pollution.

There is a possibility that my building or its foundations will be damaged by vibrations during the piling work. I understand that Historic Environment Scotland has raised concerns about the need to mitigate for potential damage to the Roman Bridge and the Rennie Bridge during piling works. My building was constructed in [REDACTED].

I respectfully request that East Lothian Council conducts a structural survey of my building and its foundations by independent professionals and paid for by East Lothian Council prior to commencement of any construction operation.

Excessive and unreasonable disturbances during construction could also be in breach of my human rights – the right to respect for private and family life and the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions.

I also anticipate that there will also be major travel disruption during the construction part of the project.

### **Potential financial detriment**

There is a possibility that this project will result in my property losing value. Should that be the case I would be looking to East Lothian Council for compensation and will take legal advice ahead of any work starting on making a claim for financial detriment.

It may well be that I have to move out of my flat because of the noise, vibration, and pollution. If I have to pay for accommodation elsewhere that will also be a financial detriment that I would seek compensation for.

### **Loss of amenity**

I object to this scheme on the grounds of major loss of amenity. I currently overlook the river at tree canopy height and also upriver past the Roman Bridge. I consider the riverbank (which I understand to be Common Good land) to be my outdoor space. In good weather I make daily use of the benches next to the Roman Bridge, and in the evening of the benches across the river which get the evening sun. I also walk down the river and along the shore at least four times a week, and often accompany an elderly friend who is unable to walk far but can, with my help, walk down Mountjoy Terrace to sit on a bench facing across the Forth. I regularly walk up the Grove as far as the railway and around Inveresk Village.

At the moment I can walk out of my building and access the grassy areas beside the river. The scheme will obscure the views of the river with walls or embankments, and I am going to lose the ability to walk up and down the riverbanks and sit by the river.

I believe the wall outside my building is still too high. I will struggle to see over the top of the wall at the section outside my building.

The scheme documents on townscape and visual impact acknowledge that there will be major adverse impact on [REDACTED].

### **Loss of trees and green space**

I object to healthy adult trees being felled for the scheme and replaced with concrete walls. When the trees are in leaf they mitigate traffic noise. I believe the construction of concrete walls on both sides of the river will exacerbate traffic and construction noise. I understand that the vast

majority of the trees in my section of Eskside West – 11 - will be felled but there is also no guarantee that, once work starts, the contractors will make the decision to take down more trees.

The Environment Impact Assessment acknowledges that it will take 15 years for any new planting to become embedded in the landscape.

### **Proportionality**

I object to this scheme on the grounds of proportionality. It is based on a potential one in 200-year event.

I have lived in my flat for almost ■ years and have never been affected by river flood water. I believe that the scale of the proposed scheme is out of proportion to the risk.

I acknowledge that the area towards the mouth of the river is at risk from high tide and high rainfall flooding, but even then, I do not think that warrants what is being proposed.

The river spends much of the year dry at the west side with visible stones. In recent years it has been affected far more by drought than it has by flood. I, like many others, have asked about dredging the river to reduce flood risk, but each time that has been dismissed.

The flood protection project claims to protect 2,037 properties. However, the construction of the scheme will have a major negative impact on far more people and for a long time.

I believe that the proposed scheme with its walls and embankments down both sides of the river and along the coast with the associated major disruption to the town and loss of amenity space is out of proportion for the level of protection proposed.

This project will cause major disruption, noise, vibration, loss of amenity, and will make the town a building site for many years. I do not believe that the flood risk justifies that.

Most of all I object to the sheer scale of the project.

### **Design**

I object to the design of the scheme. It is over-engineered and over-reliant on concrete. The design of the proposed new bridges is not in any way in keeping with the character of the townscape and existing green space. They are concrete and steel, oversized, and require massive concrete ramps.

The scheme states in its aims that it will respect the cultural heritage of the town. It fails in every respect to do so.

The scheme also states in its aims that it will not sever the town from its river but proposes to do exactly that. The river will be behind walls or mounds. The design of the bridges with their concrete ramps are particularly out of keeping with the town and will change it beyond recognition.

In my own case I will lose my open views across the river and of beautiful tree canopies and will instead be faced with an ugly concrete wall (even clad, it is still an ugly wall) on both sides of the river with concrete benches replacing the attractive wooden benches that we have now.

Even the debris traps, which I had imagined to something like an extra bend to divert fallen trees turn out to be ugly vertical concrete posts in the middle of the river.

As mentioned earlier, it will take up to 15 years for any replacement planting to bed in, and in the meantime, we will be living with views of concrete.

I am not convinced that enough attention has been paid to more natural flood solutions. The proposal has been a heavily engineered project from day one. Indeed, the Council appears to

have agreed to not continue to look at natural flood solutions having visited only one project.

### **Active Travel Project**

As bad as the flood scheme is, the active travel project makes it a million times worse. I do not believe that there is any need for five-metre-wide cycle paths along the waterfront and down the east side of the river. Musselburgh neither wants nor needs five-meter-wide cycle paths.

There is already sufficient access for cyclists from QMU along the Grove to the centre of Musselburgh. It is notable that the hire bike stands at QMU next to the railway station and at the Brunton lie empty.

I understand that the Ivanhoe bridge was originally deemed to be fine as it was for the flood scheme in 2019. It was only after the active travel project was added that the bridge was deemed to need replacing.

The replacement bridges are incredibly ugly and intrusive – concrete and steel – with concrete ramps and completely out of keeping with the townscape. These are, I believe, designed to fit with the active travel scheme.

Even worse, these five-meter cycle paths require land to be taken from the river to allow for the higher paths and wider bridges.

I do not believe that the proposed scheme will meet its aim of increasing active travel in Musselburgh. It could well have the opposite effect. I am a keen walker, but I avoid shared space with cyclists whenever possible.

Musselburgh is blessed already with clear cycle routes, eg along the shore and New Street. We do not need additional paths that are five metres wide.

Given that there appears to be no money allocated for river restoration measures, it is all the more galling to see money spent on an active travel scheme that will be to the detriment of the town and its landscape.

I understand that relatively recently East Lothian Council has decided to pause the active travel scheme and put it through the planning process. I am pleased that East Lothian Council has decided to follow a democratic process. However, I still object vehemently to the active travel scheme because of the impact it has had on the flood scheme, in particular the five-meter-wide cycle paths and hideous concrete and steel oversized bridges designed to fit with the cycle paths.

### **Lack of effective consultation**

I object to the scheme on the grounds of lack of effective consultation with stakeholders, businesses and the local population. I have been actively engaging with the scheme since 2020, yet I was still shocked by the scale of it when I visited the exhibition (which was held for two evenings only) in summer 2023. That exhibition should have been open and available for people to see for a much longer period of time and been more widely publicised.

East Lothian Council is publishing the scheme for the statutory minimum period of 28 days only, and has made the scheme papers available in only three locations and during working hours. I believe that many people are still completely unaware of the extent of the scheme and the impact it will have on the town. I believe that, given the scale and severity of this project, East Lothian Council should have published the scheme for a longer period of time and made the scheme documents more widely available. The Council should have been going door to door in the areas most directly affected by the scheme.

I believe that, given the sheer scale of this project, East Lothian Council should have done more to actively consult with the people of the town. Leaflets through doors do not count as consultation in my opinion. At no point do these leaflets make it clear that land will have to be taken from the river to enable the widened active travel paths. The leaflets that have been

circulated give an over-idealised and I suspect far from realistic view of what the project will deliver. I would go further and say that the images in the leaflets use perspective in a way that may seek to deceive.

There is a huge amount of paperwork associated with the scheme, and it would be impossible for any lay person to go through everything and give feedback in the short time period that the scheme is published.

East Lothian Council should not have approved the scheme in January 2024 without having access to the completed Environmental Impact Assessments. These constitute a huge amount of paperwork and should have been made available before councillors approved the scheme.

### **Impact on wildlife and biodiversity**

I object to the proposed scheme on the grounds of impact on wildlife and biodiversity. There will be habitat destruction and loss on an enormous scale. The Environmental Impact Assessment references otters and kingfishers, but I was unable to see any reference to the impact on, for example, the house martins which nest in the area every summer and feed on insects around the river, or the wildfowl that nest in the river area or the birds losing nest sites in the trees. I expect the proposed new bridge at the mouth of the river to have a massive impact on the populations of wading birds and on the swans that come every summer.

From my flat and the riverbank I see an abundance of wildlife daily: cormorants, goosanders, mallards, moorhens, swans, geese, wigeons, goldeneyes, eiders, housemartins, bullfinches, blackbirds, goldfinches, blue tits, great tits, jackdaws and robins to name but a few. The tree canopies provide excellent shelter for birds. There are also lots of foxes in the area, and I have been fortunate enough to see otters. I can only lament what the loss of habitat will do to the local wildlife.

The scheme states that it provides a means to fund river restoration measures but no detail is provided.

### **Equalities impact assessment**

Many of the proposed ramps and walkways look to me as if anyone with mobility issues would struggle to use them. Can I ask if East Lothian Council has conducted equality impact assessments for these projects?

### **Conclusion**

What East Lothian Council is proposing will in my opinion make my life and others' a misery for many years with construction noise, vibration and pollution. There will also be prolonged travel disruption.

I expect it will impact my mental and physical health and will potentially cause damage to my property.

It will ruin my physical and visual amenity and the visual beauty and amenity of the town for its inhabitants and visitors, turning what is currently picturesque, open and welcoming into a concreted hellscape.

It will potentially cause me financial detriment for which I will seek compensation from East Lothian Council.

The active travel scheme has an even more detrimental impact and had originally been piggy backed onto the flood protection scheme thereby bypassing the democratic process of applying for planning permission. However, I am glad to note that is no longer the case.

And all this for a one in 200-year event. I can fully understand the need for flood protection in some areas of Musselburgh, but the proposed scheme goes far beyond what is required and will be the end of Musselburgh as I know it.

I am copying in my local councillors to this objection letter and would appreciate a response from them as well as from East Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely

██████████  
██████████

**Copy to:**

Councillor Andrew Forrest	<a href="mailto:aforrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk">aforrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Cher Cassini	<a href="mailto:ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk">ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Shona McIntosh	<a href="mailto:smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk">smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Ruaridh Bennett	<a href="mailto:rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk">rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>

**Subject:** (0048) Flood Prevention Proposal Objection

**Sent:** 13/04/2024, 13:38:47

**From:** [REDACTED]

**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

**Follow Up Flag:**

Follow up

**Flag Status:**

Completed

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My name is

[REDACTED]

I wish to lodge an objection to the Flood Prevention measures proposed for the River Esk as of April 2024.

Statement -

I have lived in Musselburgh for more than [REDACTED] and during that time there has been no significant flooding from the Esk in Musselburgh. Only once has it breached the banks at the Haugh area at Stoneybank causing no significant damage at all.

Recent high tides have had little or no impact at the mouth of the river where potential flooding risk is greatest. Proposed work to walls with further up river at the Inveresk area is in my view complete overkill.

I believe that the measures proposed to date are over engineered and far exceed the scale necessary to cope with any future potential flooding. The financial cost which will no doubt increase significantly as work progresses is already far too high.

The concrete structure will be an eyesore, attract graffiti and for a significant period will disrupt the town during construction work.

I believe this development will be detrimental to the wildlife on the river which over the years has seen otters, kingfishers and many other species use the area which is now proposed for development.

I believe drainage work throughout the town would be of far more benefit in terms of contributing to flood prevention than what I have seen proposed to date.

I believe that if this proposal goes ahead the current and future residents of Musselburgh will pay a heavy financial price in the years to come for this folly.

I think those making the final decision on this matter should think again. A better way should be found to protect the area at the mouth of the Esk in Musselburgh where the risk is greatest.

[REDACTED]  
13th April 2024.

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject:** (0049) Objection

**Sent:** 13/04/2024, 19:02:12

**From:** [REDACTED]

**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

13 April 2024

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. As a tax payer I do not feel my money is being used well.

1. I do not believe that you maintain the drains properly. This causes water to flood some roads and walkways.
2. I believe you are wasting money which could be spent elsewhere
  - a) we have working people using food banks
  - b) we have homeless people on the streets
  - c) we do not have enough services for young children with mental health problems
3. I do not believe you have considered Natural Based Solutions enough.
4. I wonder who is going to pay to clean the graffiti off the wall.
5. I wonder who is going to pay for the repair of the wall
6. I believe you are ignoring many of the residents of Musselburgh
7. You are going to change the town beyond recognition

I would ask that you pause the scheme and look at it properly. Please acknowledge receipt of my email of objection. Please advise me of next steps and timescales.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** (0050 NO ADDRESS) Objection  
**Sent:** 13/04/2024, 21:53:00  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** NO ADDRESS

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I'm not sure exactly what information you need to register my objection, but I think even the most minimal of the proposals I've seen look absolutely atrocious and it would ruin Musselburgh.

Especially considering the council are now wanting to charge for garden waste pickups and reducing general waste pickups to every 3 weeks? Is this to cover paying for these unwanted "protections"?

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** (0051) Objection Letter  
**Sent:** 13/04/2024, 22:57:06  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; smcintosh@eastlothian.gov.uk  
**Attachments:** [Objection LetterO.docx](#)

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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To whom it may concern,  
Attached is an objection letter to the ongoing matters in Musselburgh.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

Carlo Grilli  
Service Manager - Governance  
Legal Services  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
EH41 3HA  
mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Date:13/04/24

Dear Mr Grilli,

As a resident of Musselburgh, I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. This “preferred scheme” which mainly consists of walls and embankments, is outdated and ineffective as illustrated by the flooding in Brechin where their flood defence walls, which were built in 2015, failed to protect the town.

I also strongly object to the design of new Goose Green bridge. I can see no reason for it to be sited at the estuary for flood protection other than trying to avoid planning permission. There are 14 steps on the west side which means the bridge must be as high as the first storey of a house. Huge ramps and foundations will be built on the unstable banks where residents are prohibited from building extensions on their houses. The top of the ramps will provide a view into the neighbouring first floor windows, and the kingfishers and otters which live at the estuary will have their habitat destroyed. As the new Electric Bridge will be for cyclists and pedestrians there is no need to site another bridge at the estuary unless to connect with the proposed totally unnecessary cycle paths at a later date. Wide tarmac paths absorb heat and will then radiate it into the surrounding landscape causing a rise in the river temperature.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection in writing. Please advise me of next steps and timescales.

Yours faithfully,

Signed  
[REDACTED]

Printed

[REDACTED]

CC Shona McIntosh smcintosh@eastlothian.gov.uk

Carlo Grilli  
Service Manager - Governance  
Legal Services  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
EH41 3HA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date:13/04/24

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

Living in the flood risk area, I would welcome some flood protection but as a taxpayer I object to the exorbitant cost of this scheme.

My reasons for objecting are:

No breakdown of costs of this scheme has been available to the public, and neither has there been a cap put on the budget.

The East Lothian Councillors were presented with one scheme, no alternative, which only pays lip service to Nature Based Solutions. Much cheaper and more environmentally friendly solutions should be investigated considering the state of East Lothian Council's finances.

Care of the elderly, community health and other Core Council services have a decreasing budget, plus our Victorian drains continue to flood the streets and the Brunton Hall lies empty as it awaits roof repairs, although £53M of taxpayers' money can be spent on this proposed scheme.

The scheme is providing protection for at least 50 years in the future, surely there is therefore time to discover or invent more appropriate flood relief for our historic town.

Musselburgh deserves better.

Yours faithfully

Signed

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Printed

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the printed name of the sender.

**Subject:** (0052) Flood Defence Scheme  
**Sent:** 14/04/2024, 09:49:12  
**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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I object to this scheme in this present form. Concrete barricades are both visually horrible but are no longer considered the best defence against rising floodwaters.

I think it is time to pause and rethink this plan.

[Redacted]