

## Environment Agency volunteers and Forestry Commission working together to Slow the Flow

A team of Environment Agency staff from the York office recently volunteered for a day building timber dams in Cropton forest on the North York Moors as a contribution to the Slowing the Flow flood alleviation project.

As part of their 'environmental leave day' programme Environment Agency staff are encouraged to get out into the fresh air and do something practical to improve their local environment.



Lucy Huckson (Asset System Management Technical Specialist) said:

"As a partner in the project it was an opportunity for the Environment Agency to get involved and to see first hand the great work the Forestry Commission is carrying out on the public forest estate."



The Forestry Commission are constructing 150 large woody debris dams in Cropton as part of their commitment to the project aimed at reducing flood risk in Pickering and Sinnington.

Simon Marrington Programme Manager for Slowing the Flow said:

“We hope to complete the construction of the initial batch of 150 dams this spring, but the work doesn’t stop there. The Forestry Commission are keen to playing their part in reducing flooding and will be restoring streamside buffers, realigning drainage systems and re-wetting areas of the forest over the years to come. This will allow us to improve wetland habitats by storing more water on the land and help Slow the Flow for the benefit of the communities downstream.”