

Case Study

Flood Mitigation Measures

Riding Lights Theatre Co,
Friargate Theatre, York



The Project

The Friargate Theatre in York, comprises a 100-seat studio theatre on the first floor, a ground-floor rehearsal room which doubles as a 50-seat cafe-style performance space, administration and workshop space. Friargate is used by the Riding Lights Theatre Co to rehearse and perform its own work, and also houses the company's four Youth Theatre groups.

Management at the Riding Lights Theatre Co approached Adler & Allan following a flood in December 2015 which had resulted in water entering parts of the building under the timber floor voids. Flood water rose to cover the second of the three stepped ground floor levels and eventually started to enter through one of the doors at the higher front street level.

Despite most of the doors having steps, the flood water still reached the door thresholds. The building is situated in flood zone 3 in close proximity to the River Ouse, so it has a high risk of flooding.

Adler & Allan helped the theatre company complete a flood grant application and advised on insurance. Following a survey of the site, A&A then recommended flood mitigation measures.

The Solution

After consulting with the client and completing a site survey, Adler & Allan installed flood mitigation solutions, comprising a self-activating sump and pump (installed in the void under the lower ground floor to prevent water rising under floor voids); self-closing air bricks that allow air to travel through, but restrict flood water flow (to ensure underfloor voids are adequately ventilated); removable door barriers, and toilet pipe seals. A&A also applied a waterproof seal to external brickwork using a clear protective coating.

The work, which took less than a week to complete, was carried out during opening hours with no disruption to theatre operations.

Adler & Allan also recommended investing in temporary flood defence measures, including a small supply of soak bags and a puddle pump for small incidental areas of water ingress, as well as its own 24/7 emergency flood support service.



The Outcome

With the help of Adler & Allan, Friargate Theatre was awarded a £5,000 grant by the Theatres Trust. The mitigation measures funded by this, and installed by Adler & Allan, have greatly reduced the risk of damage should the area experience a similar flood event in future.

Adler & Allan is a leading flood mitigation contractor, offering a variety of services to ascertain flood risk and then mitigate from flooding. These include professional surveys, flood risk assessment, flood defences and civil engineering measures which are designed and installed by a team of professional, accredited engineers.

Rob Gooch, Operations and Production Manager at the Riding Lights Theatre Co, said:

"We had a very positive experience with Adler & Allan. The company's representative who came around to do the work was very friendly and got on with it very quickly. He was very helpful – I phoned him up three or four weeks after the work had been done to ask his advice. He was very good – he remembered us and was able to offer support and guidance over the phone."