

Humber Newsletter



APRIL 2024

This newsletter is given to interested parties within the Humber area. It provides an update on the development of a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk around the Humber. If you wish to receive this newsletter or would like further information please contact us at <u>HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk</u>

Humber 2100+ Strategy

Climate change is the biggest threat we face on the Humber. If unmanaged, sea level rise and extreme weather could have catastrophic consequences for local communities, the environment, the economy and key infrastructure. The Environment Agency is working in partnership with 11 local authorities, supported by Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and Natural England to develop Humber 2100+ - a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk (including tidal rivers), setting the way forward for the next 100 years. For more information, please visit our StoryMap on the Humber 2100+ strategy https://arcg.is/u1rPj



Strategy Update

Previously the team have set dates for the Humber **community panel** in April.

Work has been continuing to develop the future baselines. During the process of running the 'Do Nothing' and 'Legal Minimum' baselines, some issues came to light and there are some ongoing investigation works being carried out to resolve these. However, this has impacted the delivery of the future baseline outputs and they are likely to be a few weeks later than originally planned.

The team held a successful workshop with partners in early March, to explore the different areas of work which will be involved in further strategy development, and how these might be resourced and delivered across the partnership.

The Humber Adaptation Pathways pilot project (HAP) is now aligned with Humber 2100+. Following a workshop held by the project team in late January, work to develop the scope for the proposed digital tool is due to be considered shortly, with the intention being to explore the hypothesis that a tool can be used to 'tell stories about possible futures and communicate scenarios to decision makers'.

The Community Panel recruitment is now complete ahead of the panel sessions in April, and expert witnesses are currently being selected to present evidence to the panel members on a range of topics. We are also continuing to work with partners to ensure that the panel outputs can be incorporated into the next stages of our work.

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Scheme Updates

Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment (OtSMRS)

For further information visit: <u>Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme - Citizen Space</u> or get in touch with the team: <u>Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk</u>.

The final year of construction for the project is beginning, with the focus now on completing works for breach later in the year. The site has now been recopened and services to the compound have been reconnected for the works that started across the site in March, allowable under the Habitats Risk Assessment (HRA) early extension.



Skeffling Lagoons - West 2

The breach works HRA and licence has also been extended until August (with some restrictions). So that the final works can be completed this year. The terrestrial habitat will be completed shortly, starting with the finishing the new embankments. The installation of the bird hides and laying of flexible pavement surface to the bridleway ramps have begun. All works have continued despite the prolonged wet weather, but it's not without its challenges. We are also in

the process of accepting tenders for future site maintenance and monitoring.

The Skeffling Pumping Station replacement continues to be designed and construction is expected to begin later in the year. We hope that Winestead Pumping Station replacement, a project that is closely linked to OtSMRS can start once it has secured planning. The simultaneous work on site can maximise efficiencies and to utilise the local knowledge of the design and construction team.

Strategic Review of the Middle Humber Defences

The Strategic Review of the Middle Humber Defences has progressed to delivery planning and has updated the name to the 'Middle Humber – Capital Maintenance Programme' (MH-CaMP) to reflect this. To develop the programme, the project team have held a variety of workshops to help gather information and inform decision making for the single Strategic Outline Case (SOC), which has now been finalised and submitted.

The proposed work on the Middle Humber programme will start with an initial 'bundle' of 3 work packages, located



Hull and Humber Catchment Workshop

on the left-bank of the Dutch River upstream of Goole and either side of the River Ouse at Reedness and Yokefleet.

Beckingham Marshes

The project team are continuing with the next stage of the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) which is aimed at reviewing, repairing, or potentially replacing a dewatering structure that is coming to the end of its life to ensure compliance with reservoir act. Investigation works and analysis are continuing and supporting the funding allocation by outlining costs for the SOC.

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Barton - New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme

For further information visit - Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme

The most economical option has been outlined and is a combination of additional resilience and raising of the existing tidal defences, along the 10km frontage of the project. The other short-listed options, including a hybrid solution with cross bunds, were found to be significantly more expensive, but could form the basis of future adaptation measures.

The project team worked quickly to turn this recommendation into a 'viable solution' that was presented to the Project Board, Steering Group, and community Resilience Advisory Group. Taking on board their feedback, this approach was then outlined as part of three very successful community engagement events held at New Holland, Barton and Barrow Haven at the end of February (see photo) attracting nearly 200 people. In addition, the project's virtual engagement platform also attracted more than 60 visits in the first week. The project team have taken on board the feedback received and are now firming up the preferred option for the business case.



The image below shows the extent of the 'viable solution' outlined at the events.



Stallingborough Phase 3 sea Defence Improvements

Construction commenced in July last year, when our contractors revised the temporary works design to a safer approach, which is also envisaged to increase productivity. A large proportion of granite rock has been imported to site, with the remaining granite arriving by June this year. All the large rock is delivered by barge from Oban, via Port of Immingham to reduce transportation carbon. As Natural England have permitted rock placement a month earlier (see photo), this should be completed by the end of the year.



Planning and delivery of the Oldfleet Drain outfall improvements will continue over the next few months.

The project team continues to collaborate with all stakeholders. This includes with North East Lindsey Internal Drainage Board (NE IDB) to help develop their Mawmbridge pumping station improvement scheme, by sharing investigation data. Our team has worked with NE IDB to clear Mawmbridge gravity system (which suffered a power outage in December), to help reduce flood risk to properties within that catchment.

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Working in Partnership



Humber 2100+ a year of Engagement

Engagement with communities around the Humber is always one of our foremost priorities. We want all communities to have a voice and work with us as we plan for the future of the region. Have a look at some of the most recent or ongoing engagement opportunities taking place around the Humber.

Get in touch with us if you have any recent engagement stories with Environment Agency colleagues that you would like to share!

AUG 23 - Community Events - Living With Water Members for the Humber 2100+ attended events to engage with the public about project and what they can do to protect themselves. Check out Gov./Flood to find out what you can do.



FEB 24 - Barton to New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme: Community Events Some of the Humber Team were on hand to talk to residents about the H2100+ strategy at 3 community events that took place and were an opportunity for the public to find out information on the viable solution and enhanced measures for the scheme, as well as sharing the project background and what the scheme has achieved so far.

Photo: Barton Community Event

ONGOING – Engagement with projects We work closely with all the projects listed in this newsletter,

keeping up-to-date on their development and working with them and other teams to help the Humber 2100+ continue to deliver the current strategy whilst developing a new one.

ONGOING – Workshops The Humber team have held several workshops this year to enhance our engagement with our partners, to find better ways of working, to discuss what they want from the Humber team, and what the bigger picture is for this project. This has helped us to map out the future more collaboratively with partners.



DEC 23 - 10-year 2013 Tidal Surge anniversary We did media interviews and ran a social media campaign throughout this challenging period where we were still battling the winter storms. To raise awareness of flood risk and what we can all do.

ONGOING - Social Media

Regular posts, with new content, an array of visual animations demonstrating complex concepts and highlighting what we can do to empower people to help themselves where they can.

APR 24 - Community Panel: Witness Recruitment The Community Panel is currently in the process

of recruiting panel speakers known as witnesses. Our team have been approaching and engaging with local farmers, business owners and industry experts across the Humber region who have a vested interest in the local communities across the area so that panel members can relate to and engage with them on discussions for the future of the region.

MAY 24 - 'Holderness Histories – A Flight Through Time' Exhibition

This exhibition is a gliding overview of the history from the archaeological finds. It will run from 1 May to 22 June 2024. The exhibition celebrates the results of our archaeological work and

Holderness Histories

will explain to visitors what our Managed Realignment Scheme is, what habitats it will create, what birds, insects, and animals they may see there, and what facilities they will be able to enjoy when construction is complete. The results of the archaeological work will also be published as a public-friendly booklet and in an online archaeological journal to make them freely and publicly available, in accordance with our planning obligations.

How resilient are you?

Are you prepared for future floods?

Although defences reduce the likelihood of flooding, the risk can never be removed entirely. To begin to be more resilient take some simple practical steps to help reduce the impact of flooding to your home or business.



To find out if you are at risk, how to prepare, stay safe and sign up (free) for flood warnings visit <u>www.gov.uk/flood</u> or call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/humber/strategyreview



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