

# Humber Newsletter

February 2023

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 [HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## 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 12 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](https://arcg.is/u1rPj) on the Humber 2100+ strategy <https://arcg.is/u1rPj>



## Strategy Update

### Recap

Previously, we stated the importance of reaching a common understanding and acceptance of the scale and consequences of flood risk, both now and in the future. This forms the first stage of our 'stepped approach'.

The initial stage of our work to understand risk, involves carrying out modelling to establish **Present-Day Risk** around the Humber. The partnership has reviewed the outputs from the initial present-day modelling. Reflections will be incorporated into a second model run with the final outputs due to be endorsed by partners in late spring 2023. The project team are also working towards a Future Risk baseline.

The **Humber Winter Comms Campaign** was launched on 7<sup>th</sup> November and is continuing throughout the winter. The campaign aims to raise awareness of tidal risk, how that risk is being managed, and what the implications of future sea level rise might mean for those that live and work around the Humber. We have had some great feedback on the materials we created, and they have been shared by a range of partners and community organisations around the estuary. However, we are still working to ensure that we make the most of every opportunity to reach communities at risk, which is a big task given the scale of the area we cover. Take a look at the *Special Edition* issue of the Humber Newsletter [here](#) to find out how you can help or head straight to our campaign materials through our drop box [here](#). If you would like to access and share the materials, contact the Humber Team [HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Highlights:

Top Tweet	
Impressions	2,918
Total engagements	145
Media engagements	70
Links	22
Detail expands	22
Profile clicks	13
Retweets	9
Replies	4
Follows	2
Hashtag clicks	1

The partnership has come a long way in the last 12 months and our more **collaborative approach** is beginning to pay dividends. We have established a SharePoint site and a Technical Evidence Working Group (TEWG) which is made up of officers from around the partnership who are pooling together their expertise. This is working well, and draft information is being shared as it is received, as this is a partnership strategy, and it needs to be built on a shared understanding of risk. This approach is allowing us to be nimble to move the project forward by working in a collaborative manner.

**Looking ahead** to the next stage of the project, we will be carrying out further modelling work to help us understand what future tidal flood risk looks like under different scenarios (for example, if we were to do nothing, or if we were to carry on with the current approach to managing risk). This will help us to understand and explain to others why a different approach in future will be required.

## Scheme Updates

[Click titles to find out more](#)

### [Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment](#)

The team are ensuring regular checks are being undertaken over the winter to monitor the site and will be back on site in the spring. Prior to the winter decommissioning, progress was made constructing the embankment on the eastern side and completion of the wet grassland habitat in West Two. Engaging with the local community has been a particularly important part of the project, and site visits for parish councillors and public drop-ins to keep people informed of progress have been well received. Students from Bishop Burton College have also been collaborating in the design of bird hides for the site. The site is expected to breach spring / summer 2024. For more information visit: [Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#) or get in touch with the team: [Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk).



*Picture of OtSMRS prior to winter decommissioning*

### [Strategic Review of the Middle Humber Defences](#)

Work has been taking place to look at asset condition, remedial works, and prioritisation as part of Phase 1 of the project which is now complete. The scope and other areas of work is being discussed along with progressing preliminary work for phase 2.

### [South Humber -Developing Projects](#)

**Stallingborough 3** – The project team are continuing to engage with the communities, stakeholders, and Northeast Lindsey IDB. A 2-year construction programme is expected to commence in Spring 2023. The team are also preparing the planning application with the necessary IROPI case and Marine Licence, with other organisations.

**Barton-New Holland** – This project continues to be progressed, with a survey programme well underway, and Natural England are liaising with the project team on the ecological constraints and working windows. Engagement

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03708 506 506

incident hotline  
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floodline  
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0845 988 1188

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with stakeholders is continuing through Resilience Advisory Group, Steering Group meetings, and local communities are being kept up to date through newsletters and the online citizen space page [here](#). In addition, a local free community magazine is regularly publishing articles. Identifying funding contribution opportunities continues to be a challenge. For more information contact the team - [BartontoNH@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:BartontoNH@environment-agency.gov.uk) complete.

## Working in Partnership

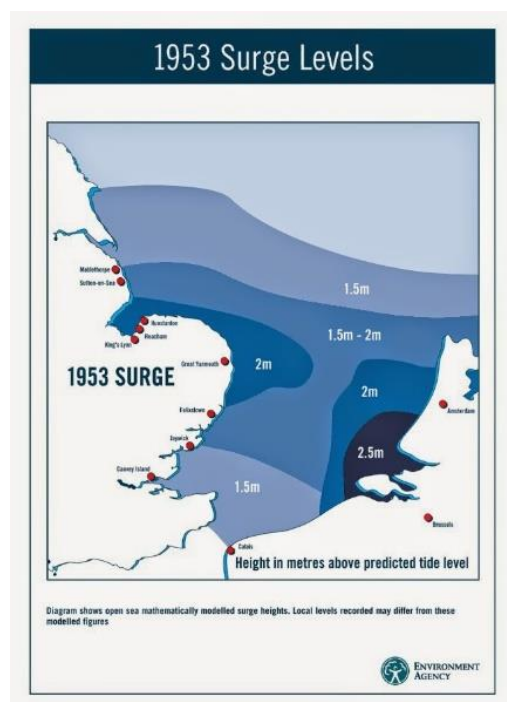


### Tidal flooding of 1953

In 1953, the East coast of England suffered one of the most devastating tidal surges in living memory. 307 lives were tragically lost, over 30,000 people evacuated, 24,500 properties flooded and prefabricated buildings, which were common as holiday homes, completely washed away and many businesses were destroyed. These devastating effects were the result of the 'the perfect' storm conditions with high spring tides, a deep pressure system and severe gale force winds. The forecast had not alluded to the storm surge, and many said there was a lack of warning with one person stating, 'in less than 15 minutes it went from the first trickle in, to 5ft deep'.



*Picture in Lincolnshire during the 1953 flood*



Much has changed since the horrors of tidal flooding in 1953. Collectively organisations are better equipped to deal with flood incidents before, during and after they occur – the Environment Agency now provide a flood warning service, advice, and information to help communities prepare and recover from flooding when it happens. Better defences have also been built which help to reduce risk to tens of thousands of properties. But as the effects of climate change are becoming a reality, it is important that we don't become complacent.

Large scale tidal events are predicted to become more frequent and the impacts even greater due to sea level rise, therefore the way we manage tidal flood risk will need to change.

We need to work together to do things differently; to come up with a plan that will be able to respond to change and secure a more resilient future for the Humber, with everyone taking responsibility to become more resilient. A bold approach that will ensure that the right resources will be in the right place at the right time. Everybody has role.

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## 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 [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood) or call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.



### Contact us



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



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