



Humber Newsletter

January 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 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 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/u1rPi>



Strategy Update

Recap

All Humber 2100+ partners have now formally endorsed the **Present-Day risk outputs**, and the methods used to develop them, which is a significant project milestone.

The formal agreement of endorsement was reached at the Programme Board meeting in October. Development of these outputs has involved close **collaboration from all partners**, as we have worked to share information, review outputs, and confirm the methodology which underpins all our work to understand risk. As a result of this process, the partnership is now in a much stronger place.

Work has now begun on the future baselines. The 'do nothing' and 'legal minimum' model runs are already underway, with the remaining baselines ('maintain defences' 'status quo' and 'hold the line+') to follow. These will be shared with partners as the outputs become available.

Dates for our Community Panel have now been confirmed, with the first session to be held on 9th April 2024. Recruitment to the panel will take place during February. Workshops have already been held with partners and EA colleagues to inform the scope of the panel, and further discussions will take place early in the New Year to shape this engagement activity. The Liaison Forum, which is a group, made up of key external businesses and stakeholders have been informed and their comments taken onboard. More information is available in the spotlight section.

The team are continuing to digest the outputs of the Humber Adaptation Pathways project 'discovery' phase and are focused on how best to align the next stages of the project with Humber 2100+, so that the two become fully integrated.

[Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment OtSMRS](#)

For further information visit: [Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme - Citizen Space](#) or get in touch with the team: Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk.

The team closed the site at the end of October following an extension of the working window from Natural England. Wet weather slowed progress in October, but all pre-breach activities have now been completed, in preparation for breach later this year. This includes the completion of the wave bund, the land drainage system and the flood embankment (except for the tie-in to the existing defense – which is needed for vehicle access). Excavation of the bowl and creeks in the intertidal area has also been completed.

A planning application was submitted for replacement of Skeffling Pumping Station, an integral part of the project, and this is awaiting determination. In October, several visitors were welcomed to the site and a public drop-in held, that was well attended and created an opportunity for people to view the plans. Work is ongoing to allow tenders to be submitted for future site maintenance and monitoring.



View of the eastern side of the site, looking westwards

In addition to this scheme, a planning application has been submitted for the replacement of Winestead Pumping Station, which is very closely linked to OtSMRS and is awaiting confirmation. The intention is to maximise efficiencies through simultaneous work on site and to utilise the local knowledge of the design and construction team.

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

The project has undertaken an assessment of asset condition and residual life, alongside the identification of possible remedial works and costs for those flood risk within the area. In addition to these asset-based assessments the team have undertaken a strategic economic assessment, to understand the benefits and justification for future investment.

The project is moving from review and assessment stage to delivery planning. The team has updated the project name to 'Middle Humber – Capital Maintenance Programme' (MH-CaMP).

The project team have held a variety of workshops to help gather information and to build a case to demonstrate the strategic need. They are now drafting the case, alongside discussions internally to gain an overarching approval to progress with development and delivery of the emerging MH-CaMP. The strategic case is programmed to be finalised early in the new year.

[Beckingham Marshes](#)

Beckingham marshes is a large, raised flood storage reservoir close to Gainsborough, and Beckingham drain sluice gate is key to releasing water in the event the reservoir fills. The sluice gate is currently inoperable due to silt build up and there is no confidence that if the gate were to be opened, that it could be closed again.

The project team has been continuing the investigation works and analysis. They are also outlining costs to support funding allocation in the next stage by the demonstrating the strategic need which is aimed at reviewing, repairing, or potentially replacing a dewatering structure that is coming to the end of its life, and to ensure compliance with the reservoir act.

[Barton - New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme](#)

For further information visit - [Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme](#)

The appraisal of the short-listed outline approaches is continuing. A recent technical workshop went through the costs and affordability of the options that have been assessed to date. We will continue to review these over the next few weeks, and more targeted 'hybrid' option solutions. We are also exploring additional funding contributions, to increase delivery certainty. Funding has currently secured through other government funding streams. Further phases of the ecological and ground investigation have been deferred until after the preferred solution has been selected.

Successful engagement is continuing through regular meetings of the project's Resilience Advisory Group and communications are through the project's newsletter, webpage and local press releases. The December meeting reflected on the impacts of the December 2013 tidal surge on these communities. The next meeting is planned for early February which will be focused on the outputs of the appraisal work to date. Towards the end of February three community engagement sessions have been advertised.

[Stallingborough Phase 3 sea Defence Improvements](#)

All cases and consents have been approved. With the main access works along the crest of the flood defence now complete, the public right of way (PRoW) bridleway is open October to March outside of the construction period. The contractor has established the compound and completed safe temporary access, by widening of the flood defence crest over the summer.

The development of a safer construction methodology caused a pause in the rock armour placement, to enable more efficient progress next year and ensure the overall delivery programme is maintained. 300m of the small rock armour was able to be placed the end of the construction period.

Minor outfall works were completed through the Autumn, together with the delivery of all the smaller rock and of the larger rock from Scotland. More loads are expected before April 2024, to ensure swift placement from that time.



Small rock armour placement

The project team has submitted the 'stage 2' planning submission, including habitats request for minor access elements that affect the designated habitat. Refinements of the outfall improvements design are underway by the project team, to enable their construction throughout 2024/25. These continue to be aided by input from many different stakeholders. Further stakeholder engagement has been planned for the summer 2024 construction phase.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Working in Partnership



Humber 2100+ Community Panel



We are currently planning our community panel, which is one of four that is happening around the country as part of the adaptation pathways pilot projects. We are using a third party to recruit a randomised, diverse cross-section of people to reflect the demographics of the Humber area. The panel consist of around 20 volunteers, and we aim to begin the Community Panel sessions on the 9th April. Please note that this is different to a public consultation, and people will only be able to join the panel if they have been invited. This is to ensure we hear from a diverse range of people, who might not put themselves forward for traditional engagement activities.

The Community Panel will entail 3 evening sessions where the panel will have several presentations from experts and followed by time available for questions and discussion from what they have heard. The final day-long session will enable the panel will use their knowledge, experiences, and opinions to share their views on what they value about where they live and provide insights on the trade-offs that will be needed as we plan for future climate change impacts. These values, insights, and trade-offs we learn about will feed into the development of the adaptive strategy and guide us in ensuring the right options are available as we plan measures to put in place to adapt and manage tidal flooding around the Humber.

To find out more about the community panel, please contact the Humber Engagement Team.

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 or call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.



Contact us



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



HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk



@Humber_Strategy



@HumberStrategy

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0800 80 70 60

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