

Humber Newsletter

July 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

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

Previously we were preparing for the second run of the **Present-Day modelling** and progressing the scope for future model runs. We are also progressing the **Community Panel** and **Framework** for the Adaptation Pathways work.

The **present-day model** re-run is now complete, and partners will have access to the outputs from mid-July. Decision makers will be briefed through the summer by their Officers, with the intention of reaching our milestone of endorsement of the present-day baseline at a Programme Board meeting in early autumn. Alongside this work, preparation to undertake future risk modelling is underway, and work will begin once the present-day outputs have been endorsed. Once the future risk modelling is also completed then the full set of present-day and future risk outputs will be formally published.

We held a successful **workshop** in May exploring with the partnership what Step 2 (Agree Approaches) will look like. Partners were fully engaged in the workshop and shared ideas. This is being followed by further development of the ideas which emerged from the workshop, through the summer. A high-level engagement strategy will also be developed for the next phase of the project.

A **Community Panel** is now scheduled to run in early 2024, to seek the views of members of the public to inform the project. Members of the panel will be recruited in the autumn. The Partnership is working to shape the question(s) which will be put to the panel, and to determine how the panel's conclusions can be used to inform the work of the project going forward.

The **Humber Adaptation Pathways** project (HAP) is within the 'discovery phase', and outputs are expected through the summer for the governance, adaptation pathway framework, and collaborative tool workstreams. The intention is to share key findings with partners in the autumn before the project moves into the 'design' phase.

Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment

Since the site has reopened, and works have restarted there is a particular focus on future access arrangements to the site, including the site car parks, pedestrian access routes (ramps up to and on top of the bund) this year. Currently work is continuing with the habitat creation at the western end of the site. Construction of the creek network and bowl, and construction of the wave bund have also begun.



Drone picture of west 2

Ecological surveys have continued as work has commenced on site, checking for nesting birds, reptiles, and other wildlife.

The design team have also been working with students from Bishop Burton College to create some outline designs for one of the bird hides and a PhD student from Hull University is visiting site this month to collect soil samples for research into [Blue Carbon](#).

A public drop in was held at Welwick Village Hall in March and there are plans for further events next year, where we are hoping to have an exhibition of artefacts that were uncovered on the site. A public newsletter is planned to be circulated shortly.

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.

Strategic Review of the Middle Humber Defences

The Initial Assessments for Phase 1 and a Strategic Overview Report is now complete, with Phase 2 ongoing. Further detailed work around apportionment of benefits is ongoing, which includes engagement with other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in the study area.

Initial results from the strategic review work have been used to inform the current (2023) round of investment planning. The next step is to progress the Strategic Outline Business Case to gain a future overarching approval to progress with the emerging Middle Humber Capital Maintenance Programme.

South Humber -Developing Projects

Stallingborough 3 sea defence improvements – After a sustained effort by the whole project team, the Full Business Case and financial approval was confirmed in February for this £31.4m scheme and the team have now secured the planning and marine licences. Our Contractor is constructing the widened haul roads and passing bays, together with establishing the main site compound. This will require closure of the public footpath and bridleway along the existing defences. The first section of smaller rock armour, toe protection and outfall improvements are expected to be begin this year. The larger rock armour is expected to be placed during 2024. A programme of engagement is being planned during the summer construction phases up to late 2025. The project team is on track to submit the 'stage 2' planning submission over the summer.

Barton-New Holland tidal flood alleviation scheme – The appraisal of the four short-listed approaches is continuing, building, optimising, and adapting the existing defence assets to get the most out of each option. Several avenues are being explored to identify suitable additional funding sources. The initial ecological surveys and ground investigations have been completed and the preferred solution is expected to be identified in early 2024. Further information can be found in the project's community newsletter and webpage [Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme](#). Following a review of the many constraints and activities required to develop the complex Full Business Case, construction is now more likely to commence in the later part of 2026.

Working in Partnership



Donna Nook



Donna Nook was identified as a site with the potential for improved flood defence and ecological benefits as part of the Humber Estuary Shoreline Management Plan (HESMP) and Planning for the Rising Tides (current Humber Strategy, 2008). Work began in 2012 to create a managed realignment site providing approximately 106 hectares of new intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh habitat. The construction of a new embankment to the rear of the site (orange line) has provided an improved level of flood protection compared to that which was previously in place.

All construction works were completed in 2019 and the site is being allowed to evolve naturally. Environmental monitoring of the site is being undertaken in line with the Donna Nook Monitoring and Management Strategy and will continue until 2039 to record the development of the site.

The first 3 yearly Monitoring Summary Report was produced in March 2023. The report tells us that the realignment area has shifted slightly towards more marine influenced habitats since the full breach was completed in 2019. The report takes into consideration previous survey results, from both before and after the creation of the full breach, which show that invertebrate densities within the managed realignment site have generally increased, and fish species diversity and density have also increased. The site is also used by significant numbers of birds over the winter and data suggests that the site functions as an essential part of the complex of wetland bird overwintering habitat in the outer South Humber Estuary.

If you would like to know more, please contact L.Nenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk .

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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



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