

Humber Newsletter

October 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

Since the last update we have been progressing on programme with all partners now having access to the **present-day** outputs.

A key milestone for this period was securing endorsement of the **present-day** outputs by the partnership. We provided all partners with a "pack" to enable review by officers, elected members and directors which included a summary document to provide a **digestible overview**. The EA team have been working closely with partners to resolve questions and queries over the review period to ensure all partners were able to endorse. All partners have either formally endorsed or have confirmed they will be doing so following final member briefings. This is a significant milestone for the project and means we can now continue at pace and begin the modelling of the **other baselines** (do nothing, status quo, and future risk).

Scoping for the **other baselines** is continuing, to enable the team to proceed with this work once present-day endorsement has been secured. Work has also been ongoing to define the planned approach to **Step 2** of the project, and the Elected Members and Programme Board have been asked to consider the developing proposals at their meetings in early autumn. Currently, we are proposing that Step 2 will provide the evidence needed for the Humber 2100+ partnership to agree the strategic approaches and associated flood risk measures available to us to manage tidal flood risk into the future around the Humber. We need to balance providing the right level of evidence to secure support for the approaches at a strategic scale, that allows us to deliver a timely and affordable way that sets the scene for Step 3, supporting the development of the adaptation pathways.

Planning for the **Community Panel**, to be held in spring 2024. The plans for the workshop sessions and presentation of evidence are currently being considered. The input from partners and wider stakeholders will be crucial to the success of this engagement activity.

Outputs from the discovery phase of the [Humber Adaptation Pathways project \(HAP\)](#) have now been received and a report is being prepared which will summarise the main findings and allow partners to consider the ideas generated so far, to inform the next stage of the project.

Scheme Updates

[Click titles to find out more](#)

[Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment](#)

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.

Work on site has continued through the summer months, with the team persevering despite the exceptionally wet summer. The main embankment is almost complete, and the final sections will be completed as part of the breach activities expected spring / summer 2024. The wave bund is nearly complete, which is to shield the main embankment against erosion. Works have also continued on the central bowl and creek network; this is to facilitate the establishment of mudflats and saltmarshes and aid site development once breached next season.



The new bird hide proposal which incorporates many elements of the Bishop Burton College students' design is with stakeholders for comment. Newsletters continue to update the public and stakeholders of the progress of the project, and an 'end of working season' community drop in is being held in October 2023 in Welwick Village.

A planning application has been submitted for Skeffling Pumping Station replacement, which is integral to the project, and is awaiting validation. The consultation period should coincide with the community drop in and allow the public to ask any questions of the project team.

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

The Strategic Review of Middle Humber Defences project has undertaken an assessment of asset condition and residual life, alongside potential remedial works and associated costs for those flood risk assets located around the middle Humber estuary. With the project moving from review to delivery planning stage, the team has agreed to update the project name to 'Middle Humber – Capital Maintenance Programme' (MH-CaMP).

A variety of workshops have been held to help gather information and inform decision making including:

- 'Options Assessment Workshop' to agree and finalise: the long and list of options; critical success factors; and the preferred way forward.
- 'Capital Maintenance Programme Delivery Workshop' to determine a programme delivery approach for the Sustain works.

An environmental opportunities workshop is also due to take place in October. This will be a collaborative, cross-organisational workshop to identify environmental opportunities and aims to protect and enhance the environment of East Yorkshire. The first draft of the Strategic Outline (business) Case is due to be complete this Autumn. This will help to gain a future overarching approval to progress with the emerging Middle Humber Capital Maintenance Programme.

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Tidal Trent Banks

Environment Agency (EA) has an ageing asset base and the flood embankments for the River Trent were constructed in the 1960's, presuming to have a design life of 50 to 100 years. To better understand these assets the EA is undertaking a series of investigations, such as intrusive ground investigations to gain a clearer picture of the residual life of the assets.

This project is in the early stages of planning. However, a strategic assessment of the *Tidal Trent* banks was conducted around 20 years ago; this included a programme of invasive and non-invasive investigations into the quality of these banks. In recent months/years there has been some extensive ground investigations and those findings have shown that the banks are in a satisfactory condition, but there are some questions over their stability in certain scenarios. Further ground investigation works are now planned on the whole length of the Trent to ensure that the defences are in good condition, and to identify if interventions are needed.



The project seeks to create a framework for gathering relevant information on other, similar assets ensuring that future data capture and retention is improved and streamlined. This includes consistent scoping and storage of relevant data. The project is now considered to be a revenue project with a programme being developed to deliver the investigations as part of our routine and intermittent works over several years.

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.

As part of the Environment Agency's responsibilities to the Reservoirs Act (1975), and as the undertaker of a statutory high-risk reservoir, regular inspections must be completed by an appropriate engineer and the Environment Agency must rectify any issues. Due to the inoperability of the gate the Environment Agency now have a legal obligation to fix the issue and are therefore working closely with the engineer, to ensure safe operation of the reservoir. The project team are currently working on a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) to review, repair or potentially replace a dewatering structure that is coming to the end of its life, and to ensure compliance with Reservoirs Act.

South Humber -Developing Projects

Stallingborough 3 sea defence improvements – The contractor has completed the site establishment and is finalising the widening of the flood defence crest to allow safe use of the excavators and dumper trucks for rock installation, as such a closure of a public right of way (PRoW) bridleway along the crest of the flood defence is in force. The marine licence has now been secured and the project team has been on with 'stage 2' planning submission over the summer to enable the minor elements that affect the designated habitat. Habitat mitigation inspections for Water Voles was completed during April and the secondary inspection took place in August.

NE Lindsey IDB team is engaging with the team to help shape the outfall improvements and align their proposals for a nearby pumping station. This year the smaller rock armour and toe protection will be completed, with the outfall improvements following through the Autumn. The larger rock armour is expected to be installed during 2024. A programme of engagement has been planned for the summer construction phases up to late 2025.



Barton-New Holland tidal flood alleviation scheme – The appraisals are continuing, building on adapting the existing defence, and are expecting an outcome at the end of the year. Although affordability concerns remain, indications are that an asset resilience scheme can be delivered, but further enhancements will need local funding contributions. Several avenues continue to be explored to identify suitable funding sources. Further phases of the investigations have been deferred until 2024, after the preferred solution emerges. Engagement and information sharing happens via the project's community newsletter and webpage [Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme](#), also with the local stakeholder representatives through regular meetings of the project Resilience Advisory Group and Steering Group.

Working in Partnership

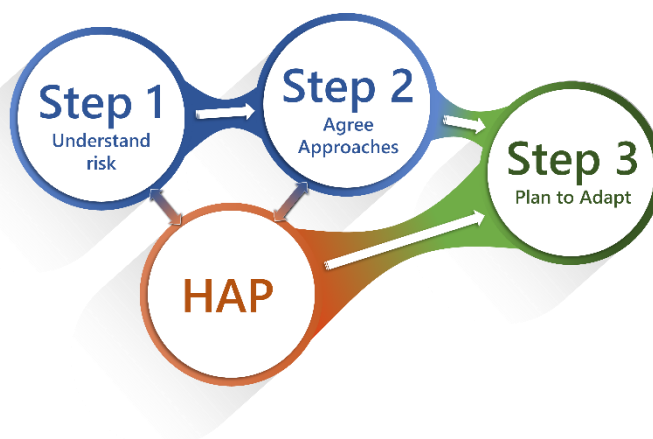


Humber Adaptation Pathways (HAP) Project

The Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy promotes adaptation pathways as a way of enabling local places to better plan for future flooding and coastal change and adapt to future hazards.

The Humber Adaptation Pathways (HAP) project is working towards developing a framework for an adaptive strategy. This means that we have an end goal for the Humber in being the best it can be and the conceivable 'pathways' we can take to end up at our 'future'.

Planning for an uncertain future is extremely difficult, but Adaptation Pathways can help. This sounds challenging, and it is, as there are so many unknowns, because we can never fully predict future conditions. Sometimes its possible know what might happen, but when and to what extent is the biggest challenge of all. We want to develop a plan that is adaptable, but with built in flexibility and options available for when choices need to be made.



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



Contact us



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



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