

# Humber Tidal Flood Strategy Newsletter

Dear Landowner/Farmer/Tenant,

January 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. You are receiving this newsletter because, according to our records, the land you own and/or work on, falls within the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy area and could be at risk of tidal flooding now and/or in the future. The purpose of these newsletters is to provide you with information about tidal flood risk on and around the Humber Estuary and to keep you updated about work that we are doing to develop a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk in your area and across the estuary floodplain.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us – [Hstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Hstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will update our records.*

## Tidal flood risk meetings held with Humber farmers

The Environment Agency, supported by the NFU, held three meetings at the end of October last year with landowners, farmers and tenants from around the Humber to help raise awareness of future predicted sea level rise and the importance of working together to be better prepared. NFU Vice President, Stuart Roberts, chaired the events which included a presentation by the Environment Agency on the development of the new tidal flood risk strategy for the Humber. Those attending had the chance to ask questions from the floor on issues such as land drainage, current policy and how to better prepare for the future. The Humber 2100+ partnership is keen to continue involving the agricultural community as we develop the new Humber tidal flood risk strategy.

### Some of the questions arising from the meetings:

- **Will the strategy include the ongoing management and maintenance of outfalls, pump replacement/management and silt clearance?**  
The partnership will consider the ongoing management and maintenance of all assets including outfalls, pumps and silt clearance as part of Humber 2100+ at a strategic level. We will establish the overall position and agree the broad principles in terms of capital and maintenance, including how future works are funded. The detail of what that will mean will be identified at a local level once the strategy is published.
- **What are the flood and habitat benefits of the Alkborough Flats scheme and do you intend to implement any of the other sites promoted in the 2008 strategy?**  
Alkborough is performing very effectively as both a habitat and flood storage site. It is very likely that more sites for flood storage will be needed, but we can't yet say how many or where. As we develop scenarios during spring 2020 we will begin to clarify this.
- **How will the new Strategy ensure that future housing and business development/plans do not put agricultural land at greater risk?**  
The objective for the project is to develop a strategy that helps to support a prosperous and sustainable Humber. We will seek to do that in a balanced way, considering the interests of all communities and stakeholders.
- **How will the strategy account for the importance of food production, now and in the future?**  
Farming and food production are extremely important around the Humber. We are looking at different ways of capturing the full value of the agricultural areas in the business case. In some circumstances it is necessary to hold water on farmland, and we will seek to also incorporate suitable and speedy recovery measures.

- **How will the strategy ensure it works with local farmers, IDBs and others to understand the current drainage network, planned changes and how water moves within the study area?**

IDBs are represented on the Humber 2100+ partnership, and the partners are also committed to engaging with other agricultural stakeholders and directly with farmers and landowners as part of the strategy development process. The partnership sees an ongoing dialogue with the agricultural community as being crucial to help us make best use of local knowledge and understand local priorities.

- **If flooding land is part of the solution, how is compensation currently calculated (e.g. on fluvial schemes) and what may differ for a tidal scheme?**

For specifically-designed and engineered fluvial washlands, payments are calculated in advance on the basis of an anticipated frequency of flooding. The approach in a tidal situation could be expected to be similar, but this is an issue which we will be considering in detail as we develop the strategy.

## Strategy update

Understanding the impacts of flooding on agriculture can help towards effectively planning for possible future flooding, potentially lessening the impacts and speeding up recovery. We are working with the NFU, IDBs and CLA to understand the requirements of landowners/farmers which will help inform the new Humber Strategy. During February and March we will be holding a series of scenario development workshops. These workshops will enable us to start mapping out what future scenarios might look like for the Humber. Area representatives from the NFU, IDBs and CLA will be involved with these events and will be able to raise general concerns from the agricultural community. Further opportunities for you to directly comment on our plans will be available through our public consultation in autumn 2020.

## Be prepared

Flooding has already affected large areas of farmland this winter due to the relentless wet weather that we have been experiencing. In addition to the high river and groundwater levels, stormy conditions are common at this time of year contributing to an increased risk of tidal surge. **It is important to be prepared** - make sure that you have a plan and are signed up to receive Flood Alerts as well as Flood Warnings, to give you time to take action. Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188** or visit **gov.uk/flood** for more information.

- You should prepare a bag of essential items to take with you in an emergency. Include things like important documents, clothing, medication and contact details that you might need (eg. for employees, insurance company)
- Turn off gas, water and electric
- Ensure employees are aware and know what to do
- Be prepared to move livestock out of harm's way - for more information on reporting animal movements in an emergency visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flooding-advice-for-farmers-and-land-managers>
- Identify machinery, tools or stock that could be moved to prevent loss or damage – think about electrical items in particular
- Secure chemicals and fuels to prevent contamination

Need to report something? For main rivers and sea contact the Environment Agency incident hotline on **0800 80 70 60** - for drains and other watercourses contact the Internal Drainage Board - or to report surface water flooding contact your Local Council

## Contact us

To find out more, visit our Story Map <http://arcg.is/1WC8vn2>



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



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