



Welcome to the Project

Tidal flooding has been a long-standing problem for the communities of Barton, Barrow Haven and New Holland. Previous tidal flooding incidents, such as that of the 5th December 2013, highlights the need for improved tidal flood defences and increased community resilience.

The Barton to New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme is developing an approach to alleviate tidal flooding which has community resilience, sustainability, and adaptability at its core.

Project Update

Since our last newsletter in August 2024, the project has made significant progress, particularly as we move towards finalising the outline business case (OBC). An OBC is a high-level document that identifies the best way to spend money on a project. It outlines the project's goals, checks its practicality and affordability, and ensures the best option for public funding investment. It will guide our activities and management for successful delivery.

Whilst our last issue explained our proposed outline solution, and its impact on the entirety of the project area, this edition provides additional details on our plan for Barrow Haven.

We also have the latest updates from our ecological surveys and other on-site surveys, and information on how we have been engaging with communities over the past few months.

Proposed Plan for Barrow Haven

The Environment Agency and its partners have developed a proposed solution, based on modelling results, cost assessments and extensive feedback from local communities to address tidal flooding.

At present, the proposed solution focuses on maintenance, and where possible, repair of the existing defences over the short and longer term.

The proposed improvements to the frontline Humber defences will reduce the risk of them breaching and so significantly reduces the flood risk to properties within Barrow Haven.

Unfortunately, the estimated cost of relocating the existing outfall structure (and required environmental mitigation) is too high to be included in the current scheme. There is potential for the work to be incorporated into a future adaptation phase if additional funding became available. So, we will continue to explore this possibility.



It is recognised that the existing embankment will take a high amount of maintenance in the future. So, an enhanced maintenance/repair funding allowance has been incorporated into the project's economic case to cover such cost.

Ecology Updates

Our team has been undertaking a range of ecological surveys to ensure that we identify any ecological constraints and develop plans that minimise the impact on the ecology of the area.

Some of our ongoing surveys/assessments include:

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

HRA is a step-by-step process which helps determine if a plan or project may affect the protected features of a habitat's site. The outcome of this decides whether the plan or project can be undertaken, permitted, or authorised. Our teams have now completed Stage 1 and 2 of the HRA:

Stage 1 reviews the chance of the project having a significant effect on a habitat's site, either as a standalone project or in combination with other local proposals.

Stage 2 assesses the possible significant effects of a project on the habitat site and its conservation objectives. It considers ways to avoid or mitigate the potential for an adverse effect on the site.

Bird Surveys

The past bird surveys identified a total of 53 species, 9 of which are red listed, meaning that they are at high risk of extinction, and are endangered in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. This information is critical to gather to ensure our proposals do not adversely affect the local ecology. Further surveys are anticipated for the rest of winter and the 2025 breeding bird survey. The wintering

bird surveys are ongoing and will span seven months between November 2024 and May 2025 with one visit per month.

The breeding bird surveys will be undertaken between March 2025 to July 2025. Landowners in the area should have received a letter with more details on where and when the bird surveys will take place.

Additional Ecology Surveys

Our teams will be carrying out additional surveys from March 2025 onward relating to:

- Badgers
- Otters
- Water Vole
- Invertebrates
- Great crested newts.

Ground Investigation Surveys (GI)

A GI survey helps us to determine the condition of the ground to understand its suitability for a construction project. This includes identifying information such as:

- How much water is present in the ground, how deep it is and how it flows
- Detailed information about soil type and how 'strong' the ground is
- If there are any voids under the ground
- How the existing embankment and coastal defences have been built, and how deep the foundations are.

Ground investigations are extremely important as they help to minimise risk by better understanding potential ground hazards that may otherwise cause delays and additional cost during the construction phase.

Our teams previously undertook ground investigations between February and March 2023. However, given the updates

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to our options and the proposed project area, further targeted ground investigations will be undertaken in the coming months.

If you have any concerns, please get in touch via the project inbox at BartontoNewHollandFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Engagement Updates

In October, we held meetings with the Steering Group and the Resilience Advisory Group (RAG) to share the latest updates on our upcoming ground investigations and our progress finalising the outline business case.

Both Groups are made up of local residents and representatives from organisations such as Natural England, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, North Lincolnshire Council, and internal drainage board authorities. Collaborating with subject matter experts with local knowledge provides a space for us to work together to discuss the project, identifying new opportunities for the project and to understand and action potential concerns.

Our next RAG meeting will be held in February 2025.

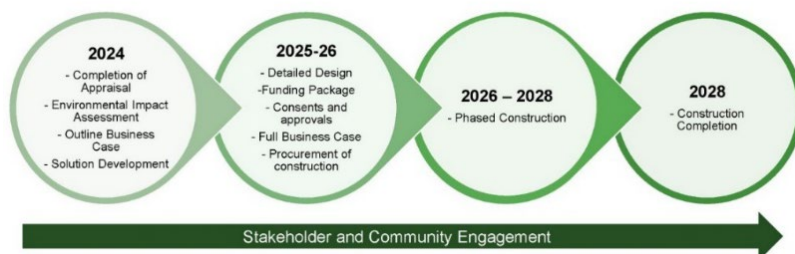
For more information on the RAG, please contact our project team at BartontoNewHollandFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Next Steps

- Our team has scoped a second phase of ground investigation works. A HRA and further environmental assessment of these works will be undertaken ahead of them starting in early 2025.
- We are in the process of finalising the economics and options appraisal reporting and are making good progress with drafting chapters of the outline business case. We are expecting to submit the business case by the end of December.
- Additionally, we will be undertaking a gap analysis to help identify the need for any future phases of Site Investigation and surveys (e.g. GI, topographic surveys, Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys etc).

Project Timeline

The scheme is currently on track to begin phased construction by late 2026 and reach completion by 2028.



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Get Involved

We strive to keep communities well informed with all latest project updates.

All information about the project as well as any updates are also available on our Citizen Space website available here:

[Barton to New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme - Information Page - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/citizen-space/barton-to-new-holland-tidal-flood-alleviation-scheme)

A repository of all information presented at our engagement events in February can be found on our virtual engagement webpage:

<https://barton-to-new-holland-tidal-fas.virtual-engage.com/>

For any other questions or concerns, or to get added to our mailing list, our project team can be contacted via: BartontoNewHollandFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

