



Summary

The River Slea Flood Resilience project aims to find a long-term solution for the aging structures located in the River Slea, Sleaford which control river flows. More information and our previous newsletters can be found on [our Citizen Space page](#). We will also be attending RiverLight in the EcoVillage on 22nd June 2024 to discuss and present updates on the project. In this newsletter you will find out:

What have we been doing over the past year?

- Funding was approved for the current stage of the project
- Made good progress on environmental surveys and flood risk modelling
- Continued to develop proposals for the various structures

Over the past year

The project gained approval for funding in April 2023 to continue to develop and work towards the next stage of the project. The next stage has commenced, and the project team is developing a short list of viable options to reduce flood risk and manage flows in the River Slea, Nine Foot River, and Old River Slea.

Flood Risk Model

We are developing a computerised flood risk model, which is being used to simulate the impact the different options will have on water levels and river flows. This will allow us to assess the impacts and benefits of the different options so we can have confidence in the proposals.

Surveys

A key part in deciding which option the project will take forward is understanding the effects the proposals will have on the surrounding area. To investigate this, ecology, heritage, environmental and high-level engineering surveys have been conducted on and around the rivers in Sleaford.

What's Next?

We will be attending the **Sleaford RiverLight Festival** on **Saturday 22nd June** to discuss and present updates on the project. You will find us in the **Eco Village** at **Sleaford Leisure Centre**.

Further information: [RiverLight Festival | Hub Sleaford \(hub-sleaford.org.uk\)](https://hub-sleaford.org.uk)

As the project progresses, we will continue to engage with our stakeholders and the public, to provide updates on the short list of options and the preferred option (Summer 2024).

Keep an eye on [our Citizen Space page for details](#).



**RiverLight
2024**



Fun Fact: Cranwell Line Sluice

Did you know that Cranwell Line Sluice was built in 1979 to split the flow of the River Slea?

The sluice is located east of the A15, upstream from Sleaford. During times of high flow, the sluice is opened to allow water from the River Slea into the Nine Foot river, which passes Sleaford Castle before rejoining the River Slea just upstream of Carre Street tilting gate.

Operating the sluice requires members of our field teams manually opening the gate. Presently, we are undertaking work to understand the effectiveness of this structure on flood risk.



Winter 2023/24

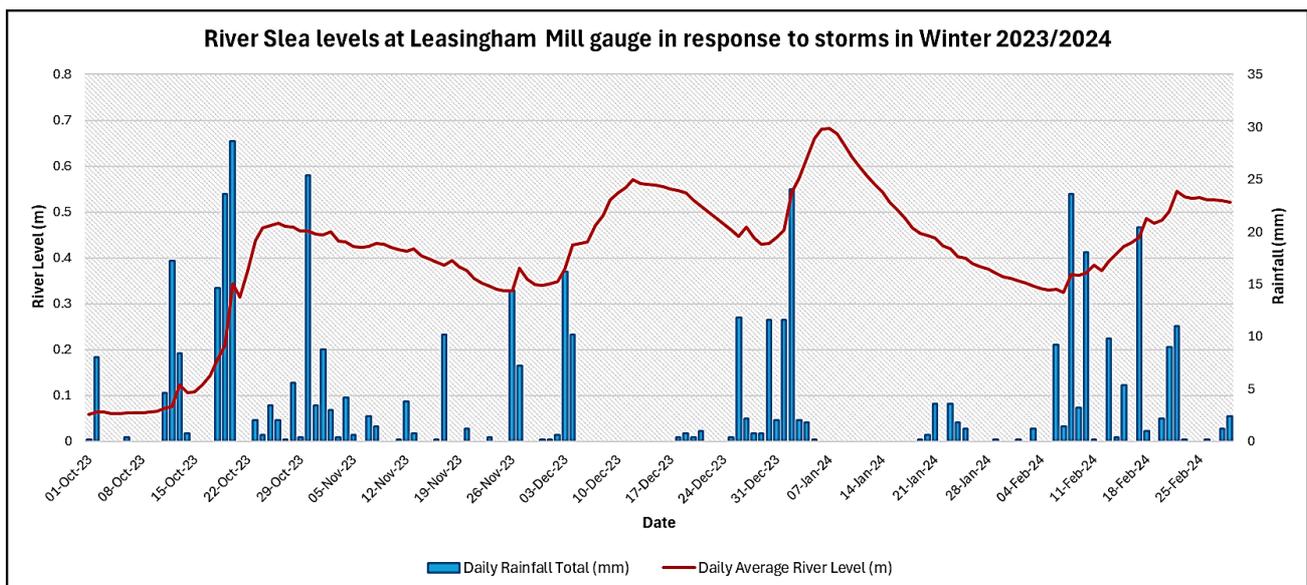
In a flood event, we are at the core of emergency response alongside the emergency services as a Category 1 responder. We lead on flood risk from rivers and sea.

Storm Babet and Storm Henk brought significant heavy rainfall across much of the UK which was followed by one of the warmest and wettest Februarys on record.

High rainfall and groundwater conditions in the area led to high river levels and flows in the River Slea. In Sleaford, every Environment Agency owned structure was opened to allow water to flow more easily, and we monitored the situation throughout. There were no reported properties flooded in Sleaford from the rivers.

Throughout the winter, our colleagues have been removing debris from the channel. They even encountered a sofa cushion which was stuck in a sluice and blocked it!

The below graph shows levels in the River Slea responding to rainfall throughout Winter.



Contact Us

Email us: Riverslea.Floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk

Find out more about the project: [Citizen Space page](#). Or search for "River Slea Flood Resilience Project"

If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, please email us using the address above.