

Flood Resilience Project



Welcome to the project!

Welcome to the first issue of the River Slea Flood Resilience Project newsletter. We are delighted to share early details of our project on the River Slea. We aim to issue a newsletter for you every few months to update you on progress.

This project aims to maintain the successful management of flood risk on the River Slea whilst reducing its impact upon the river environment. Over many years, this river catchment has altered for a range of uses such as navigation, milling and for water supply. This has led to a number of structures being built on the river which have changed the natural river flows over the years. These structures were installed to retain water, allowing navigation and supplying water to mills, however, they now require significant investment if they are to be maintained into the future.

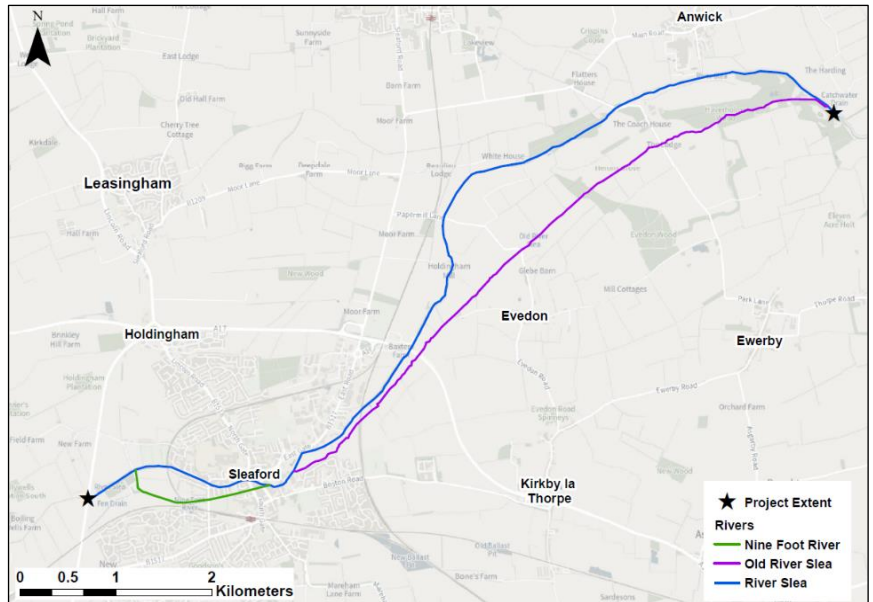
The area can also experience high-water levels with a risk of flooding. The last flood warning was in 2019. With climate change, these occurrences are likely to increase. It is important that we act now to provide long-term flood resilience to help communities adapt and reduce the effects of any future flooding.

Our work so far

A project team has formed to investigate the issues on the Slea. We are currently in the appraisal stage where we carry out surveys and modelling work to investigate the risks, understand the baseline so that we can consider what options might be available to achieve a flood and drought resilient watercourse.

This includes finding the options to restore a more natural channel by removing unnecessary barriers to water flows and fish.

We have produced an environmental desk study with input from ecological, landscape, heritage, and planning specialists to develop an understanding of opportunities to achieve more for the area through this project.



Map above shows the extent of the project area and shows the River Slea, Old River Slea and Nine Foot River.



Working together

Engaging with stakeholders is key to the success of the project and we will be making every effort to engage with communities, landowners, businesses, and potential partners throughout the project.

In addition to this newsletter and dedicated project email address, we also have a project webpage on Citizen Space which provides information, maps, photos, and other useful material, see the link below!

Throughout the summer we are looking at ways to engage with stakeholders further in a variety of meetings and community events to create a more collaborative approach to managing the risks of flooding in this area, including funding solutions.

We welcome the views of all who have an interest in the River Slea, Old River Slea and the Nine Foot River.

Not yet on our mailing list? Just send us an email with your name, email address and interest in the Slea.



Image Left: The River Slea near the Hub.



Image right: Cogglesford Sluice tilting gate one of many moveable structures on the Slea. It is used to retain water levels within the River Slea and allows water to pass when water levels are high to reduce flood risk.

What happens next?

- Still in the early stages, we will continue to work on developing an understanding of the baseline situation.
- We will continue to use recent channel surveys and data on rainfall and climate change predictions to produce a computer model. This will improve our understanding of local flood risk both in the present day and in the future.
- We will be contacting key stakeholders, arranging opportunities to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the area and looking to hold community events in the Autumn.

Contact Us!

Got a question? Why not contact our dedicated project team.

 **Email us at:** riverslea.floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or visit the webpage on Citizen Space:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/river-slea-flood-resilience-project/>

Or scan our QR code to be taken directly to the website.



SCAN ME