



Flooded Farmland 2019

Project Overview

The River Slea located in Sleaford, Lincolnshire is heavily influenced by groundwater flows, meaning it can suffer from low flows and flooding.

Throughout history, the River Slea has undergone modifications for a range of uses, including navigation, milling and water abstraction. This has left a number of historical structures located within the river, which consequently alter the river flows. Some of these structures may increase flood risk and need to be assessed, along with other options to help reduced the risk of flooding. This project will develop options to achieve a flood and drought resilient watercourse.

Did you know...

The River Slea is a 36.4-kilometre-long tributary of the River Witham.

In 1872 the river was described as “a never-ending source of pure water” and was a trout river, renowned throughout the east coast of England.

Project Updates

Modelling

Since the last newsletter, we have continued to develop our understanding of the current situation within the River Slea catchment. This has included using survey data to undertake modelling, to understand local flood risk in different scenarios.

Engagement

We have also continued to expand, and develop relationships with our stakeholder network, and undertaken engagement to inform development of the project.

On 28 September 2022, we held a workshop with Environment Agency colleagues and stakeholders at The New Life Centre in Sleaford.

It was an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the River Slea and share their feedback and ideas on how it could be improved, in the context of four key topic areas: heritage and navigation, community and wider benefits, the environment, and flood risk and modelling.

The workshop was also an opportunity for colleagues and stakeholders to make suggestions to develop what is known as a 'longlist' of options.

The workshop was attended by over 30 colleagues and stakeholders and was a huge success.



We received over 200 comments which we have since analysed to identify feedback, and suggestions for the longlist of options



Images: Photographs taken at our September workshop at The New Life Centre, Sleaford.



The project team will now review and assess the suggested options to identify an initial shortlist. We will then hold a second workshop with stakeholders in December 2022, as an opportunity for stakeholders to review and feedback on the options, to determine a final shortlist. This shortlist of options will then be assessed against a

number of criteria including community benefit, environmental impact and affordability, to identify the most suitable and sustainable options.

Next Steps

- Our Citizen Space webpage is getting a refresh, to make it more accessible and easier to navigate. You can find copies of all our previous newsletters and project updates on the webpage. If you have any suggestions for other features or topics that you would like us to include, please let us know via the project email address below.
- We will continue to keep you informed and engaged with the project over the coming months, and have some exciting community engagement events planned for spring 2023. Details about upcoming events will be shared in future newsletters and our Citizen Space website (linked below).

Contact us

Email us at:

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Citizen Space Webpage:

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

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