

Keeping you informed No 2, August 2020

Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) Castlehill Aquagreen Proposals

In early August this year we sent our first newsletter, to tell you about the Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) and our proposals for an aquagreen at Castlehill. This second newsletter provides more details about the aquagreen design along with a plan of the site; **we are now asking for your views on these.**

The aquagreen at Castlehill is part of the Holderness Drain FAS. This aims to reduce flood risk for homes and businesses in the Holderness Drain catchment. Investing £28 million in total, it involves work at two sites; in East Hull we are replacing the existing pumping station with a new one and at Castlehill we would like to create an aquagreen - a versatile green space that can temporarily store excess water during a flood and then slowly release it back into the drainage system after the peak of the flood has passed. Together these two projects will reduce the risk of flooding to existing homes, mainly in the North Carr and Sutton areas of Hull, providing a long term and more sustainable solution to the problem of flooding in this area.

Please note that our proposals are completely separate to the proposals you may have already seen or heard about for housing on the land to the south of this site at East Carr.

This scheme is a partnership project, led by the Environment Agency and supported by Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Highways England and the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund Programme.

Tell us what you think

Please give us your views on how we can make the most of this space. The Environment Agency wants to find out what local residents and

anyone else interested in the site think about our plans for Castlehill. You'll find details of how to do this at the end of this newsletter. Taking account of your local knowledge and preferences for the site will help us to shape the final design of the scheme and make best use of the site.

Proposals for Castlehill

Homes in North Carr and Sutton are at risk of flooding from water held in Holderness Drain after heavy rain. When the Holderness Drain becomes full, water then flows into Sutton Cross Drain, overwhelming the local drainage system and threatening houses nearby. This came close to happening last November when extremely wet weather caused flooding in other parts of Hull.



Flood water in Holderness Drain, November 2019. Photo courtesy of Jessica Fox, Hull City Council.

To reduce the risk of this happening, land at Castlehill has been bought to create an aquagreen and provide extra space to temporarily store flood water. This will involve digging an extra drain, east of Sutton Cross Drain, building a new embankment beside it (shown as number 11 on the plan and digging a long wide ditch (called a swale – number 9) at the southern end of the

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site to increase the storage capacity of the area during a flood. Once the flood is over, water will drain away and, although the site is designed to be 'wet' in some areas, flood water will not be held permanently on the site. These features form the aquagreen and will help to control the flood water, keeping it away from homes in North Carr and Sutton. You can see them on the plan attached to this newsletter.



Flooding on farmland next to the drain, winter 2018.

We will also raise the level of several low spots on both sides of the Holderness Drain to reduce the risk of 'overtopping' and flood water spilling out onto the land next to the drain.

Benefits of the scheme

The main benefit of this scheme is to significantly reduce the likelihood of flooding for homes in the North Carr and Sutton areas of Hull, storing flood water in the aquagreen and keeping it away from homes. Under normal weather conditions, the site will not hold water. This gives us an opportunity to create a more attractive place that people can enjoy spending time in, offering green space for walking, cycling and appreciating nature. This could include:

Improving access to the site and creating a network of paths:

At present paths on this site are not well connected and become very muddy when it rains. We would like to make it easier for people to walk, cycle and ride on the site by installing a network of accessible paths and bridleways, as

shown on the map. These new paths could link into current paths, including the Trans-Pennine Trail. Some paths could be made suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs, if desired, to make it easier for people to use them. In addition we would like to install a new path and footbridge to give access to the site from Bransholme (shown as number 10 on the plan). Please use the feedback form at the bottom of this page to tell us what sort of paths you would like to see on this site.

Creating space (habitats) for wildlife:

At the moment the site is largely open farmland and not very friendly or welcoming for wildlife. To improve on this situation, we want to create a range of different habitats to encourage birds and animals on to the site.

We would like to plant a stretch of woodland on the site between the existing Sutton Cross Drain and the new drain (feature number 1 on the plan). This will include a mix of native tree and hedgerow species, as shown on the map under 'planting schedules'.

The plan also includes an area of hay meadow (number 3), patches of scrubland (numbers 2 and 4), some reed beds (number 5), several small ponds (number 7) and some new hedgerows (number 8) in other locations around the site. Together these will provide a variety of important habitats for wildlife in the area.



Motorbike barriers and places to sit down: we would like to install motor bike barriers on some paths, as well as regular resting places with logs and boulders for sitting on. We would appreciate your views on where might be good locations for these to be placed.



The Castle Hill monument: we would like to offer better protection for the Castle Hill monument (number 6) by restricting access so that only people on foot can enter the area around it and installing some information boards about the history of the site, if this was desired.

Returning your response

This consultation runs from the **24th August to the 28th September 2020**. Please use the feedback form included with this newsletter to tell us what you think, sending it back to us in the freepost envelope before the closing date. If you prefer to fill in the form online, you can find it at: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/holderness-drain-castle-hill-consultation>

What happens next?

Once the consultation closes, we will review all the feedback we have received and use this to inform the design of the scheme. We will then produce a report explaining how we have used your comments to develop our plans. Once this is published, you will be able to download it from our website at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/holderness-drain-castle-hill-consultation>. Or you can contact us by email or telephone (see details below) to request a copy.

We intend to submit a planning application for this scheme to Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council by winter 2020. If granted permission to build it, work will start in 2021.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about these proposals, please phone our National Customer Contact Centre on **03708 506 506** and ask to speak to a member of the Holderness Drain project team. You can also email your questions to us at HoldernessdrainFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk



If you want a large print version of this form, you can phone our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 and ask for a member of the Holderness Drain project team.

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