

# Keeping you informed No 3

January 2021

## Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS): Castlehill Aquagreen Proposals

This newsletter offers an update on the consultation we carried out last year on the Environment Agency’s proposals for an aquagreen (flood storage area) on land at Castlehill.

The consultation ran for five weeks, from the 24<sup>th</sup> August to the 28<sup>th</sup> September, with options to respond by post or online via the project website.

Thank you to everyone who gave us their views on this subject. We have read all the feedback forms and analysed the results, using this information to help us develop the design of the scheme.

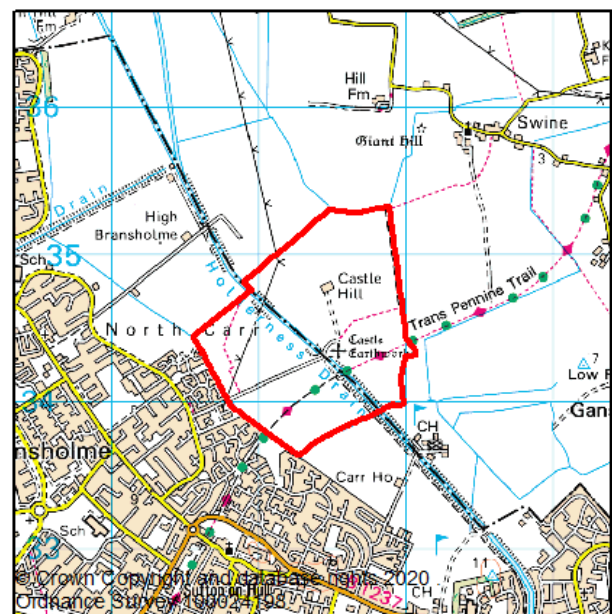
### Findings from the consultation

In total we received 119 responses. Of these, the majority of respondents (67%) were supportive of the scheme, 8% opposed it and 18% were uncertain about it.

The most popular features in the design included creating new habitats for wildlife (84%) and installing motorbike barriers along some paths (76%). The options of providing more greenspace for recreation (73%), making improvements to the site of the Castle Hill monument (72%) and creating a network of footpaths and bridleways around the site (71%) were also well received. However many consultees expressed concerns that the scheme could aggravate existing problems on and around the site, in particular those of illegal motorbikes and antisocial behaviour.

The proposed new footbridge also attracted criticism as some people felt it could potentially increase traffic and parking problems and also attract more antisocial behaviour. Several

consultees asked how the site would be maintained in future, comparing it to Noddle Hill Nature Reserve and commenting that this does not feel safe as it is neglected. Others wanted to know about the height of the new embankment and whether Sutton Cross Drain will be filled in, expressing concerns about security and loss of privacy if this happens.



Site of the proposed aquagreen (boundaries shown in red)

### Changes made to the design of the scheme

After reviewing all the feedback from the consultation, we have made changes to the design of the scheme as follows:

**Access for motorbikes** will be restricted at the main entrances to the site, using a variety of methods. We propose to install carefully designed barriers in certain key locations, including near to the Castlehill monument. These will make it possible for wheelchair users and horse riders to visit the site.

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03708 506 506

**incident hotline**  
0800 80 70 60

**floodline**  
03459 88 11 88

**Antisocial behaviour:** We want to minimise opportunities for antisocial behaviour on the site. This includes keeping the number of access points to a minimum and relocating paths so that they avoid the edges of the site, where possible. We won't include fencing, CCTV, wooden seating or other features that could be easily vandalised.

**A new footbridge:** We have decided we will not install a new footbridge to the site from Bransholme as this was not a popular suggestion.

**Other facilities for visitors:** We will not provide parking or other facilities that would encourage additional traffic into the area.

**Sutton Cross Drain:** The existing Sutton Cross Drain will remain in situ; we have no plans to remove it and it will not be filled in.

**A new embankment:** We are reviewing the design of the new embankment to reduce possible impacts on privacy and security for property owners living near to it. There won't be a footpath along the top of it, for the same reason.

**Maintenance of the site:** The design of the scheme has been changed to minimise the need for maintenance after it is built, but also to ensure the site can be adapted to include new features as it develops over time. In addition, we are working with Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to investigate possible funding sources for maintenance.

You can read a more detailed description of these changes in the full report, which can be downloaded from the Holderness Drain website:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/holderness-drain-castle-hill-consultation/>

### What happens next

Following this consultation, we will finalise our designs for the aquagreen and then submit a planning application to both Hull City Council and East Riding of York Council in early 2021.

This will offer another chance for residents and other stakeholders to view and comment on the proposals, via the local authorities' online planning portals. We will update the Castlehill aquagreen webpage to provide information about this, including the final designs submitted.

### Any Questions?

If you have any questions about these proposals, please email us at [HoldernessdrainFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HoldernessdrainFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Or you can phone our National Customer Contact Centre on **03708 506 506** and ask to speak to a member of the Holderness Drain project team.



*Trees will be planted in some parts of the site to create woodland habitat*

### Partners and Funding Providers

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.



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