

# Keeping you informed No 6

# December 2022

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

### We are closing this site for winter

Fine dry weather over the summer months enabled our contractors, JBA Bentley, to make good progress with construction of the aquagreen. More than half the scheme is now built. However, recent wet weather has made it extremely difficult to continue working there. Ground conditions have deteriorated to the point where it is hazardous for staff to move around the site and heavy machinery to be operated. We have therefore made the decision to pause all civil engineering work on site until the spring. In December our contractors will move off site for the rest of the winter. They will aim to return in April 2023. This will still be dependent on the weather and ground conditions over the winter; if it is very wet, then they may have to wait another month or so for the site to dry out. Whilst the site is closed, it remains a construction area so the entrance at Castlehill Road, which is not a public right of way, will be closed and gated to keep the public safe. Existing public footpaths which have been kept open up until now will remain open.

### Help us create new habitats

Although all construction work will be temporarily stopped, landscaping work will continue during January and February. This involves tree planting and filling in gaps in hedgerows. We have several thousand seedlings of tree and hedgerow species to plant on Castlehill to create the woodland and scrub habitats desired for the site. So we are inviting local residents and local community groups to take part in some tree planting days in January or February. **If you would like to help us do this, please contact Nikky Wilson by email at:**

[HoldernessdrainFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HoldernessdrainFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk)

We will provide more information about possible dates for this in the New Year.

### Local councillors visit the site this summer

In August this year, we hosted a visit from Hull City councillors Jan Loft and Rhys Furley to show them what's been happening on the site. Despite the wet and muddy conditions, we gave them a tour of the site and had lengthy discussions about some of the challenges arising as work progresses.



*Photo: Councillors Furley and Loft (right hand side) with contractors, Environment Agency staff and Rachel Glossop from Hull City Council, viewing work done on the Holderness Drain embankment.*

### Progress with construction so far

#### Removing low spots

In the early part of the summer, work began to raise the height of the embankment along Holderness Drain, to remove low spots where water can escape from the drain during flood conditions.

The material being used to build up the embankment has been taken from the northern edge of the site, so avoiding the environmental impacts of having to bring in material in lorries

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from outside the area. This has resulted in the creation of a 'scrape' (a shallow depression) at the northern end of the site. This feature will provide habitats for wildlife that prefer wetter conditions and may hold standing water in the winter months. In the spring we intend to sow a grass mixture in this scrape that includes wetland plant species.

### Preparation for piling works

Investigations are continuing into the method of piling to be used along East Carr Drain to ensure that any disruption to nearby properties can be kept to a minimum. Work on this will start in early 2023 once we have made a decision.

### Work on Sutton Cross Drain

A section of the existing Sutton Cross drain, shown on the righthand side of the photo below, has been realigned (moved further into the site) and is nearly completed. This will increase the capacity of the site to store flood water.



*Photo: The Castlehill site, showing the site compound and the realigned Sutton Cross Drain (right side), taken during the summer months.*

### Meadow grassland creation

In addition to all the earth moving work, we have carried out some landscaping along the western side of the site. A wildflower seed mix has been sown there this autumn to create an area of grassland. This should germinate in the spring of

2023 and includes flowering plants such as Meadow Buttercup and Yellow Rattle.

### Update on East Hull Pumping Station

Work continues at the bottom end of Holderness Drain to build a new pumping station for East Hull. This is part of the Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme which aims to reduce flood risk in the Sutton and North Carr area of Hull. You can read an update on the work done there on the project website: [Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme \(FAS\) - Information Page - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/holderness-drain-flood-alleviation-scheme-fas-information-page-citizen-space)

### 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, National Highways (previously Highways England) and the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.



### Contact us

If you want to speak to an Environment Agency staff member, 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. For any questions or concerns about construction, please contact Shaun Hyett, JBA Bentley's site manager on **07973 640757**.

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