This newsletter is intended to provide you with information about the Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) and in particular the work being done to develop plans for an aquagreen at Castlehill, in the North Carr and Sutton areas of Hull. An aquagreen (also called a flood storage area) is 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.

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.

Background to the scheme

The Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) 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 have started replacing the existing pumping station with a new one and at Castlehill we want to create an aquagreen to reduce the risk of flooding to 870 properties in the North Carr and Sutton areas. Together they will reduce flood risk in this area.

Proposals for an aquagreen

Houses in North Carr and Sutton are at risk of flooding from water in the Holderness Drain. The main risk of flooding arises when the Holderness Drain becomes full and then flows into Sutton Cross Drain, overwhelming the local drainage system and threatening houses nearby. Land at Castlehill has been bought to build the aquagreen and provide flood storage to protect your home as well as creating new green space.

This will involve digging a new drain on the site, east of the existing Sutton Cross Drain, and building a new embankment beside it and also digging a long wide ditch (called a swale) to temporarily store water. These changes will provide extra space to temporarily hold flood water on the site – the aquagreen - helping us to reduce the risk of flooding to properties in both neighbourhoods. As part of the scheme, we will also raise the level of several low points on the banks of Holderness Drain to prevent it from spilling out.

The map below shows the area where the aquagreen will be built.

Benefits of the scheme

Reduced flood risk: The aquagreen will provide storage for flood water and so significantly reduce the risk of flooding for residents and homes in North Carr and Sutton.
**Better access:** We can create a network of footpaths on the site and better access points to it if you tell us that’s what you would like.

**New habitats created for wildlife:** part of the scheme involves planting areas of reed bed and woodland on some of the wetter areas of the site.

**Protecting the Castle Hill monument:** we would like to make improvements to the area around the Castle Hill monument to offer better protection to this historic site.

**Improved water quality:** this will be better for fish in the drain and other wildlife on the site.

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**What happens next?**

We want to know what you think about our proposals. We will be contacting you again soon to ask for feedback. We will provide a more detailed map and more information about the changes we are proposing along with a feedback form and prepaid envelope for you to respond. We will also set up a website so that you can submit an electronic response if you prefer. The address for this will come in the next newsletter.

We will review all the feedback we receive and use this information to shape the design of the scheme. Where we are able to incorporate your suggestions to improve the design of the scheme, we will do so.

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We intend to submit planning applications for this scheme to Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council by Winter 2020/21.

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**Any Questions?**

If you have any questions about these proposals, please phone our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 and ask for Nikky Wilson, Yorkshire Area Engagement Specialist. You can also email your questions to us at HoldernessdrainFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

**Find out more**

If you want to join our mailing list to receive regular updates, email 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 Nikky Wilson, Yorkshire Area Engagement Specialist.

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**Partners and Funding Providers:**

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