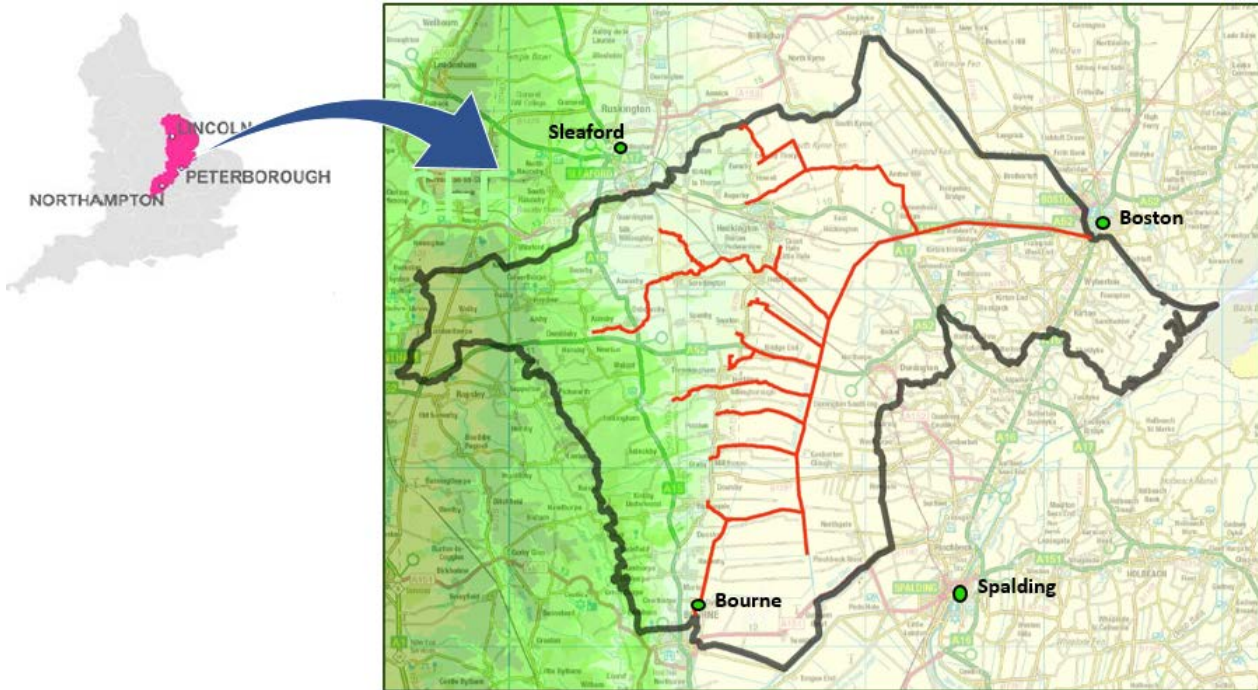


# South Forty Foot Catchment

Briefing

26 September 2018



## The South Forty Foot Catchment, Lincolnshire

The South Forty Foot Catchment is the geographical area where watercourses flow into the South Forty Foot Drain, also known as the Black Sluice Navigation. The South Forty Foot Drain (SFF Drain) takes water from the fenland area of South Lincolnshire into the Boston Haven at the Black Sluice. From there it flows into the Haven, where the Boston Barrier Tidal Scheme is being constructed, and out into the Wash.

We are currently responsible for the Black Sluice Complex which consists of a gravity sluice and dual navigation lock/gravity sluice, the primary assets used to discharge flows from the SFF Drain. There is also the Black Sluice Pump Station, consisting of 5 diesel pumps built in the 1940's, which is currently not operated due to its negligible role in managing flood risk in the catchment. We are also responsible for maintaining the SFF Drain and its feeder high land carriers (main rivers that cross the fenland in embanked channels). Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board operates on both banks of the SFF Drain, lifting and pumping land drainage water into it from its thirty seven sub-catchments.

The South Forty Foot Catchment has become the focus for a number of national pilots and regional strategies. An overview of those key schemes and projects are detailed below.

### Wider Catchment Strategies

- **Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Partnership:** This partnership provides co-ordinated management and delivery of flood risk and drainage functions of all relevant organisations across Lincolnshire. It also co-ordinates and manages the vital contribution that is made to promoting sustainable growth through the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, and the development of strategic solutions to water resource provision in the long term.
- **Water Resources East (WRE):** The Water Resources East initiative brings together partners from a variety of backgrounds seeking to pioneer a new collaborative approach to managing water resources. The goal is to develop a long-term, multi-sector water resource strategy for the East.

The vision is for an integrated strategy, with trade-offs between industry sectors that will balance the needs of all partners and the environment.

- **South Lincolnshire Water Partnership:** This partnership was formed in 2016, when a wide range of water management stakeholders working together on an informal basis, recognized the need for a more integrated approach to water management in South Lincolnshire. The Partnership is now working to develop innovative strategies to improve the resilience of the water environment, while simultaneously enhancing the 'Natural Capital' that underpins much of the local food, public water resource and visitor economies. The Partnership is delivering the ambition of WRE at a local level.
- **South Forty Foot Steering Group:** A forum for flood risk management authorities working within the South Forty Foot Catchment to meet and discuss the wide range of flood risk management projects taking place in the catchment. This group was active in 2016 and 2017 and members of the group have now gone on to join the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership linking flood risk management with the wider remit of sustainable water management in the catchment.
- **South Forty Foot Initial Priority Catchment:** The EA/Defra Abstraction Plan was launched in December 2017 setting out how we will reform abstraction. A key part of this plan is take a [catchment based approach](#) to manage abstractions. This will bring together the Environment Agency, abstractors and catchment partnerships to identify and implement local solutions to existing and future abstraction pressures. To test this approach we are trialling abstraction reform tools in ten priority catchments, the South Forty Foot being one of them.

### Current Schemes and Projects

- **Swaton Natural Flood Management:** One of the national pilot catchment scale NFM projects. Working with farmers to implement trial NFM measures to reduce flood risk to 3 small villages that are regularly flooded.
- **Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN) Pilot:** a national project looking at how we manage low consequence watercourses, de-maining and transferring maintenance responsibility to another Risk Management Authority. The SFF is one pilot area, transferring to Black Sluice IDB.
- **Black Sluice Pumping Station (BSPS) Effectiveness Initiative Project:** following detailed modelling, economic assessments and public consultation, the project is taking forward the asset transfer or decommission of BSPS. This is due to the asset not playing a significant role in flood risk management for people and property in the catchment.
- **South Forty Foot Drain Cutter Section de-silting works:** a project led by Black Sluice IDB, through a Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) with us, to increase flow and capacity in the SFF Drain through a de-silting regime. We are currently investigating Phase 2 of these works.
- **South Forty Foot Catchment bank armouring works:** as part of a programme of wider catchment works, we are armouring low spots along the SFF Drain and its tributaries to reduce the risk of a breach during high flows and are currently modelling Phase 2.
- **Boston Barrier and Haven Banks Schemes:** a multi-million pound scheme that once finished will provide better protection to over 14,000 properties against tidal flooding and is deemed a 'National Priority Project' within the Environment Agency's Six Year Programme.



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