

Humber Strategy - Stakeholder Newsletter

August 2022

This external newsletter is given to the parishes and wards in the strategy area, our partners, and other interested parties. It provides an update on work we are doing to develop a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk on and around the Humber, and lets you know about some key flood schemes/projects going on around the estuary. If you wish to receive this newsletter please contact us at HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk

Humber 2100+ Strategy

Climate change is the biggest threat we face on the Humber. If unmanaged, sea level rise and extreme weather could have catastrophic consequences for local communities, the environment, the economy and key infrastructure. The **Humber 2100+ Partnership** is made up of 12 local authorities and the Environment Agency supported by Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and Natural England. The aim of the strategy is to redefine the strategic approach to managing tidal risk on the Humber, setting the way forward for the next 100 years taking into account predicted sea level rise and climate change. This also includes rivers where tidal flow is the main source of flood risk. For more information, please visit our [StoryMap](https://arcg.is/u1rPj) on the Humber 2100+ strategy <https://arcg.is/u1rPj>





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Strategy Update

Recap In the last issue, we introduced our proposed ‘stepped approach’ and described what we expected to achieve during Step 1. We also explained that we were developing a framework and scope for how this could be achieved as a Partnership.

We have now developed short names for each of the ‘steps’ in our stepped approach, to help better explain what each involves. These are as follows:

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Understand risk (Step 1)
- building acceptance of the magnitude and consequence of risk, and how we communicate it
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Agree approaches (Step 2)
- that we will use to manage tidal flood risk – accepting that the current approaches won’t be enough
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Plan for adaptation (Step 3)
- defining what actions are needed, where and when, and how we will flex and adapt over time

We are now working alongside our commercial partners to deliver an up-to-date present-day picture of tidal flood risk, including the broader consequences of that risk. This will be shortly followed by the *future risk* baselines which will be the focus of 2023.

We expect to have *present-day* flood risk outputs available and endorsed by all partners in early 2023. The lengthier timeline incorporates work requested by partners, such as a better reflection of interactions between different sources of flood risk.

The partnership is working more collaboratively following the pause and restart in the technical work. There has and will continue to be a lot of time invested to build a strong partnership foundation, which is so important in the coming months. Local authority officers have been working very hard with the Humber team on this.

Partnership activity is focused on understanding methods and constraints of the evidence. Data will be made available through the usual data sharing channels (e.g. gov.uk) once we have a finalised information ready for publication. The Partnership has a key role in how information is collectively and proactively communicated and in developing consistent messages.

The ‘endorsement of the *present-day* baseline’ milestone Autumn/Winter 22/23 is a key moment for the project. There needs to be a common understanding of the problem, and why it matters; to allow the Partnership to move on to future risk picture, and possible solutions. The programme has been built to allow partners to ask questions and reach satisfaction so they can endorse the information and move on to solutions.

In the autumn we are planning to deliver a tidal flood risk awareness campaign, aligned with the Environment Agency’s national flood action campaign, to help decision makers and communities around the Humber understand the scale of risk and the challenges this poses for the future. This will pave the way for the sharing of baseline information during 2023, and full public consultation during later stages of the project once we have developed emerging proposals.

“We are, after all, the greatest problem solvers to have ever existed on Earth. If working apart, we are a force powerful enough to destabilize our planet. Surely working together, we are powerful enough to save it.”

Sir David Attenborough – Opening ceremony of the UN climate change Conference COP26, Glasgow, Scotland, 01-Nov-2021

Present day timeline



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Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment

Background

The **Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme (OtSMRS)** is a joint venture by the Environment Agency and Associated British Ports (ABP) to realign existing flood embankments and create approximately 175 hectares of new mudflat and saltmarsh habitats on the north bank of the Humber estuary, near Skeffling. The scheme will also include the creation of 75 hectares of wet grassland habitat. It will provide the required compensatory habitat to replace habitat losses at designated sites from sea level rise, and for direct losses resulting from development. It has also enabled the Environment Agency to undertake important flood risk management work around the Humber estuary such as the Hull: Humber Frontage scheme.

The main compound and access have been installed. Works are now ongoing on both sites of the scheme, the managed realignment site in the east and the wet grassland in the west.



Layout of the site



Control structure in Field B of western terrestrial wet grassland

In the west, earthworks in the middle field are almost completed, with the exception of some exclusion zones due to nesting Marsh Harriers. Elsewhere the control structures and pipework are being installed for the future management of water levels on the site. Works will commence shortly to install the new flood embankment to tie in with the realignment scheme.

In the east, the topsoil has been stripped in the main bowl area, where material is being used for construction of the embankments, and along the line of the new defence. Around 800m of new bank has been installed and work is progressing in some areas until the final Ordinary Watercourse Consent is received (expected shortly).

In the areas around an old Nissen hut on the edge of the site, old building foundations have been found and recorded by the archaeologists. This has uncovered the presence of asbestos in the area and the team are currently developing a plan to remove the material in the safest possible manner, whilst continuing to work around it.

Strategic Review of the Middle Humber Defences

Background

The Rivers Aire, Don (Dutch River) and Ouse flow around Goole, each of which is flanked by flood defences that currently reduce flood risk to the town and surrounding areas, much of which is below the tidal mean high-water level. However, the area remains at a significant risk of flooding from both fluvial and tidal events, potential breach events as a result of defence failure, all of which is increasing in risk due to sea levels rise and climate change. The strategic review of the Middle Humber Defences is largely based on the conclusions and recommendations of the approved 2008 Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy and other strategic studies on the Rivers Aire and Don.

Phase 1 of this work will result in 8 Initial Assessments, each of which will contain a list of identified remedial works required in each project area. The 2 remaining project areas relate to Victoria and Ocean Dock gates in Goole, which are being assessed through separate projects due to their technical complexity. In addition, a Strategic Overview Report will bring all these individual areas together and provide an overarching 'strategic asset management plan' for delivery of the identified works.



Map of Goole area showing the flanking of the Rivers Aire, Don (Dutch river) and

Phase 2 will review and justify the works identified in phase 1, through the completion of economic assessments and funding estimates. This work will also include benefit apportionment and therefore engagement with other local Risk Management Authorities and the Humber 2100+ Team (initial engagement has already started) and will culminate in a 'strategic investment plan' to complement the asset management plan developed through phase one. Together the outputs of the Strategic Review, delivered through the two phases of work, will provide information and evidence to update the capital programme.

South Ferriby and Winteringham Ings Sea Defence Improvements

Background

The South Ferriby flood alleviation scheme reduces the risk of tidal flooding to 150 homes, businesses and the Cemex cement plant. It was a partnership scheme between the Environment Agency, North Lincolnshire Council and Cemex. All works on site have now been completed.

In Winteringham village there are over 20 properties that are to benefit from the Property Flood Resilience Project which is researching a range of options and considering costs. This forms the second part of the South Ferriby and Winteringham Ings Flood Defence scheme, with the South Ferriby section now complete.

A report on the potential resilience options for the flood embankment across Winteringham Ings has been completed. The implementation of the selected options will be completed by the end of 2022/early 2023.

Donna Nook

Background

Donna Nook is a managed realignment site on the outer south of the Humber Estuary which has opened up 106ha intertidal habitat. The project has helped reproduce valuable intertidal habitats to account for losses in the Humber designated site. The Humber SPA and SAC go outside the Humber Estuary and include the ELDC coastline to the edge of the strategy area. All construction activities on site are now complete.

Monitoring is required for the first 20 years post-breach to understand how the site is changing. We have undertaken the first full set of monitoring and surveys since the breach was cut in 2019, and the final deliverables with comparisons to pre-breach site conditions are expected later this year. Going forward, monitoring and

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management of the site will be contracted out on a farm tenancy basis. The successful tenderer will deliver monitoring and management in line with the Donna Nook Monitoring and Management Strategy.

South Humber -Developing Projects

Background

The Environment Agency is continuing to progress three priority projects that have been indicatively allocated funding in the 2021-27 Capital Investment Programme. Overall combined outcomes could lead to reduced flood risk to more than 3,000 properties, existing major industrial sites and significant infrastructure, as well as enterprise zones. The associated benefits/outcomes that justify government funding have been strategically apportioned with other Risk Management Authorities to allow their projects within the tidal floodplain to progress.

Stallingborough 3 - this scheme will reduce tidal flood risk between the ports of Immingham and Grimsby, by improving and maintaining existing assets, across approximately 4.5km of tidal defences along the frontage. This scheme is a mix of capital maintenance to improve the condition of the current assets and ensure they can withstand the continued tidal pressures, alongside short stretches of improvements. Due to the nature and location of the works that are required we are working with Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the local authority to ensure we comply with all planning legislation and the Habitat Regulations. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.

Barton-New Holland - The Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme aims to adapt and improve flood defences in the area, alongside crucial work to increase resilience and reduce the impacts of tidal flooding to local communities and businesses. We are currently reviewing a range of possible options alongside some strategic modelling. The ecological surveys are continuing alongside working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to better understand some of the constraints. We have started geotechnical surveys and our engagement activities continue with the Resilience Advisory Group, with representatives from the local communities and stakeholders, regularly meeting. Discussions with the local authority and other potential beneficiaries around partnership funding are ongoing. We will continue to share updates via project newsletters and the project website ([webpage](#)).

Halton Marshes Phase 2 – Further discussions with North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) and Able UK reps has broadly agreed that NLC will lead this project, with Able UK and the Environment Agency providing the support to advance the appraisal and secure the necessary funding.

Working in Partnership

Living With Water

Is a partnership between Yorkshire Water, Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Environment Agency and the University of Hull – all of which play a role in managing water in Hull and the East Riding.

Living With Water was created to help protect Hull and East Riding area by building understanding about the threats and opportunities water brings. One of their projects is the **Blue-Green Vision**, which involves exploring opportunities to manage water effectively for the future. The ambition is to invest in schemes to increase flood resilience across the region. In Hull and the East Riding, several sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) projects are being planned to help manage the area's surface water flood risk.



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SuDS help to manage surface water caused by rainfall by acting in a similar way to natural water processes. When it rains heavily, water runs off hard surfaces, such as buildings, roads and pavements, and into drainage and sewer systems, which are sometimes not large enough to cope with this additional influx. **SuDS slow the water flow** and channel it away from drains and sewers. As well as managing flood risk, SuDS also help reduce pollution and enhance biodiversity. Examples of SuDS include, water butts, rain gardens, wet woodlands, permeable paving and green roofs.

The Humber Strategy Engagement team are working with colleagues involved in Living with Water to identify opportunities to share joint messages.

To find out more visit: [Living With Water | Our Blue-Green Vision](#)

How resilient are you?

Are you prepared for future floods?

Although defences reduce the likelihood of flooding, the risk can never be removed entirely. Flooding can happen at any time and from a variety of sources. To begin to be more resilient take some simple practical steps to help reduce the impact of flooding to your home or business.

To find out if you are at risk, how to prepare, stay safe and sign up (free) for flood warnings visit www.gov.uk/flood or call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.



Contact us



<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/humber/strategyreview>



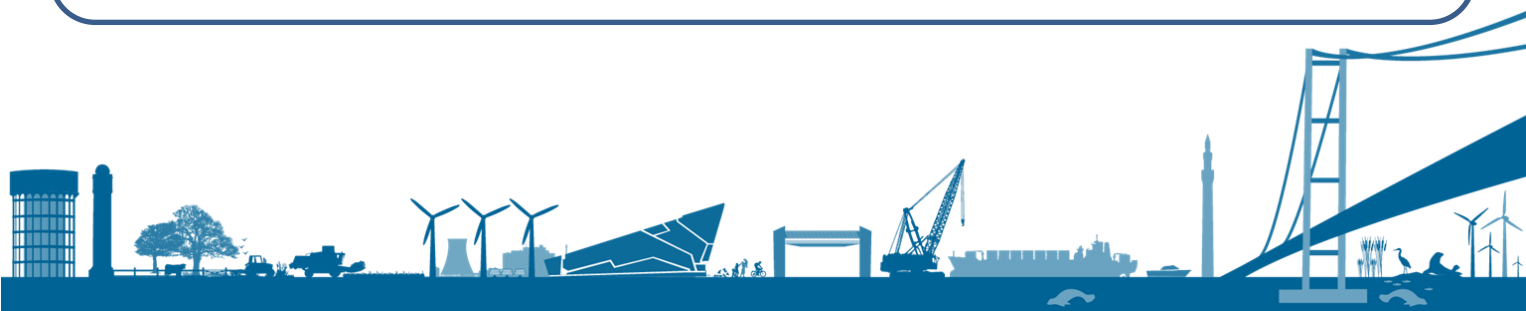
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