

Welcome Speech and Formal Opening Ceremony

Board Chairman: Good morning everyone, and a very warm welcome to Ravensfleet Pumping Station. On behalf of Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board, thank you for joining us for the formal opening of this important new facility.

It is excellent to see so many people here today, including our Board members, partners, contractors, colleagues and invited guests. This opening marks the completion of a major investment in the future of drainage and flood risk management across the Ravensfleet catchment.

This station has a remarkable history. Drainage at Ravensfleet has been part of this landscape for nearly two centuries, from the early steam engine arrangements of the 1830s, through the later diesel engines, and now into a new generation of efficient electric pumping. Each stage has reflected the needs of its time, and today we are proud to take the next step.

The new pumping station represents a £5.8 million scheme designed to provide a more efficient, effective and sustainable system for managing surface water and flood risk. With three new all-electric pumps, modern controls, telemetry, improved screens and upgraded infrastructure, it gives us a stronger and more resilient arrangement for the years ahead.

Most importantly, this station helps us continue protecting a large and important catchment area of more than 20 square kilometres, including farmland, infrastructure and 579 local households. That is the real purpose of this investment: to protect people, property and productive land, and to keep this drainage system working reliably when it is needed most.

Delivering this project has not been straightforward. The team has had to work around the existing station, difficult ground conditions, tidal influences from the River Trent, supply challenges and the need to maintain flood management throughout construction. The successful completion of the scheme is a credit to everyone involved.

I would like to thank Cheetham Hill Construction, consultants, suppliers, the Environment Agency, Board Members, Staff and Officers and everyone who has contributed to the design, construction, commissioning and safe delivery of the works. I would also like to recognise those who have maintained the old station over many years and helped keep this catchment protected through changing times.

This is both a practical achievement and a symbolic moment. We are respecting the long history of Ravensfleet while putting in place modern, lower-carbon, fish and eel sensitive pumping technology that will serve the area well into the future.

Formal opening words: It therefore gives me great pleasure, on behalf of Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board, to formally declare the new Ravensfleet Pumping Station open.

Thank you everyone. Please do take the opportunity to look around, speak with the project team and find out more about the work that has gone into delivering this important scheme.