Humber Newsletter

November 2025

This newsletter is given to interested parties within the Humber area. It provides an update on the development of a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk around the Humber. If you wish to receive this newsletter or would like further information 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 Environment Agency is working in partnership with 11 local authorities, supported by Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and Natural England to develop **Humber 2100+** - a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk (including tidal rivers), setting the way forward for the next 100+ years. For more information, please visit our **Engagement HQ** site here:

Humber 2100+ | Engage Environment Agency

Strategy Update

Recap

Previously the project team were finalising endorsement with the last few partners.

For previous updates visit Humber 2100+ | Engage Environment Agency

Following endorsement of the Humber 2100+ 'Understand risk' evidence base by all partners earlier in the year, the project team have been focused on digesting the implications of the evidence base for future work and considering what further evidence might be required for the next stage. The outputs have been shared with key Environment Agency colleagues through a series of internal webinars, and partners have also been encouraged to consider what the evidence might mean for their own organisational plans and priorities. Work is continuing to develop a product to allow the outputs to be presented to wider stakeholders beyond the Humber 2100+ partnership.

In parallel, work has been underway to consider future governance arrangements for Humber 2100+, as the project moves from evidence production to the development of an adaptation pathway. A summit meeting for all partners is planned for early November at which this topic will be discussed in more detail, and a steer sought from partners.

Scheme Updates

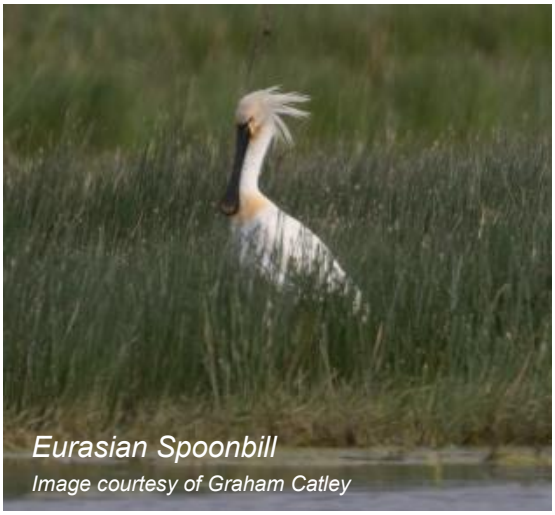
Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment (OtSMRS)

For further information visit: Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme or get in touch with the team: Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk.

The additional breach widening works that took place in April – May this year, have made a significant improvement to the evacuation of water from the site. We are continuing to monitor the tidal movements to ensure that the widening works continue to perform as designed and the site establishes as envisaged.

The site continues to attract new visitors, and specifically new feathered visitors that are not normally seen further north than East Anglia - the Stone Curlew and Spoonbill.

A formal opening event for the site, now known simply as The Outstrays, was held in September this year, with local officials and representatives from key stakeholders being in attendance.



Eurasian Spoonbill
Image courtesy of Graham Catley

The Skeffling pumping station works continue and are progressing very well thanks to good weather over the summer. We expect work to the new pumping station to be complete by the end of winter 2025 and demolition of the existing pumping station in 2026.

Work to the new Winestead pumping station (a separate Environment Agency project, being delivered under this contract with JBAB for efficiency) has been progressing well and is also due to complete next year.

Middle Humber – Capital Maintenance Programme (MH-CaMP)

For previous updates visit Middle Humber - Capital Maintenance Programme (MH-CaMP)

Following approval of an overarching Strategic Outline (business) Case in 2014, the Middle Humber Programme initially proposed a 'Bundle 1' comprising three work packages located on the left bank of the Dutch River upstream of Goole, and either side of the River Ouse at Reedness and Yokefleet. Our focus at the moment is on progressing the Saltmarshe to Yokefleet area.

The Dutch River: River Went to Ouse Confluence

An Initial Assessment (IA) of the condition of flood defences along the Dutch River was undertaken as part of a wider strategic review of flood risk management assets in the Middle Humber area, informing the MH-CaMP programme. The Dutch River: River Went to Ouse Confluence project is a capital maintenance initiative aimed at addressing issues identified through the IA. The works will help reduce the likelihood of failure or breach, maintaining the current standard of protection provided by approximately 10km of defences on the left (northern) bank of the river.

The proposed works include topping up low spots, widening the crest, and stabilising the embankment slope at key locations. Mobilisation began in the week of 29 September, slightly later than planned, with current activity focused around the upstream end of Dutch River Side, where progress has been steady.

The scheme also incorporates improvements to the existing 'Greenway' pedestrian footpath and cycleway, which runs nearly 5km between Rawcliffe Bridge and Goole Docks.

Barton - New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme

For previous updates visit Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme

The business case for the project was submitted at the end of May and was approved in early August with estimated capital costs of £39m, to deliver 1300 better protected properties across three communities. In parallel, focus through the summer has been on building the programme and contract to develop the Full Business Case, including detailed design, evidence, consents and approvals. This includes an ongoing review of the best procurement strategy.

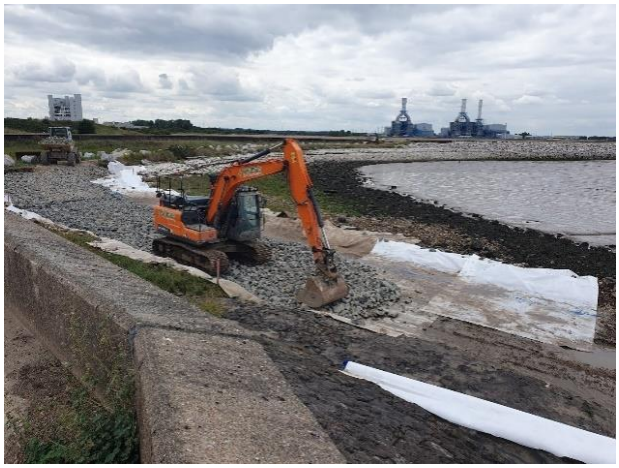
The diligent work to engage with the planners from North Lincolnshire Council early, has resulted in an agreement that most of the proposed resilience improvement along this frontage can be undertaken using the Environment Agency's permitted development rights. This will save the project considerable development time/cost and should enable a swifter passage to construction. However, the Marine Licence and other envisaged consents need to be considered with the programme constrictions.

The ecological surveys have been completed, and the second phase of the ground investigations are to be completed through the Autumn, to reduce disturbance to the surrounding sensitive habitats. Landowners are being informed. The project's Resilience Advisory Group continued to be informed of progress, and further guidance will be sought from the Steering Group. Funding contributions are also being sought.

Stallingborough Phase 3 sea Defence Improvements

For previous updates visit Stallingborough Phase 3 Sea Defence Improvements

Throughout the 3rd year of construction, the access tracks across the foreshore to Oldfleet Drain and New Cut Drain outfalls have been completed. This includes the complex additional water main crossings at the southern end and the four small rock armour infill areas over the service crossing. Now the revetment is fully protected and has a reduced risk of breaching and overtopping. At Oldfleet Drain the foreshore channel desilting has also been completed.



Oldfleet Drain access track construction

The design of the Oldfleet Drain overflow system has continued, along with clearance of New Cut Drain outfall. The necessary consents have been obtained, and the works will begin in 2026 after the overwinter working constrictions have been lifted.

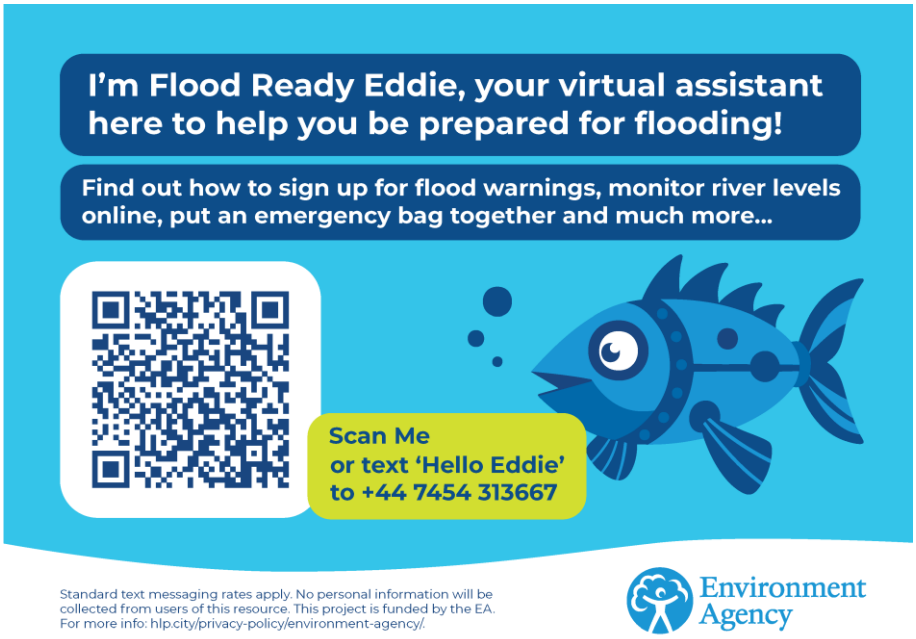
The project team have worked with the Area Fisheries Biodiversity and Geomorphology (FBG) team to explore some fish and eel compensatory habitat for impacts of the outfall improvements. It's envisaged that this will be undertaken along the upper reaches of the River Freshney throughout 2026. Landscaping and fencing works, particularly around New Cut Drain/Pyewipe area are expected to be undertaken towards the end of 2026, with further reseeding of the landward bank with an enhanced wildflower seed mix to help biodiversity.

Spotlight on the Humber

Flood Ready Eddie!

The Environment agency (EA) are testing a new way to engage in North East Lincolnshire by using Flood Ready Eddie - an interactive AI chatbot.

Residents can have a 'chat' by using this link [Flood Ready Eddie], **scanning the QR code** or **sending a text** to find out how to be prepared for flooding. For example, how to sign up to the Flood Warning Service, what to put in an emergency bag and how to monitor river levels online.



There are more than **36,000 properties** at risk of flooding from the rivers or sea in North East Lincolnshire. Just under 4,000 (11%) are proactively signed up to the Flood Warning Service. Around 23,000 (63%) can be reached with a message to a BT landline or text thanks to an agreement with some mobile phone providers. However, there are just over 9,000 (26%) that the EA have no contact details for.

The EA's Flood Resilience Team are calling on communities and organisations to help support the support the initiative with tailored social media posts, information on websites or by displaying postcards in key locations. If you can help, please contact the Flood Resilience Team frt.lincsandnorthants@environment-agency.gov.uk

How resilient are you?

Although defences reduce the likelihood of flooding, the risk can never be removed entirely. 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.**

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