

Humber Newsletter

February 2026

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 reflecting on the evidence base and its implications and sharing key findings with internal colleagues.

For previous updates visit [Humber 2100+ | Engage Environment Agency](#)

The project team have now produced a stakeholder facing publication which summarises the evidence from the 'Understand Risk' phase of work. This has been reviewed by partners, and the intention is to begin sharing this more widely during the spring, and to publish it on gov.uk.

Alongside this work, the team have also been continuing to review the evidence, considering the implications for next steps, and for our 'business as usual' work. A key aspect of this has been the decision to begin developing a strategic case for asset management on the Humber, in response to the stronger understanding we now have of the interconnectedness of risk around the estuary and the importance of continued investment in our existing assets.



In mid-November, a Humber 2100+ summit meeting was held, with senior attendees from all partner organisations. The purpose of this was to discuss what changes may be needed to the project's governance structure in light of the evidence base. This was a very successful event, with great engagement from all attendees. There was a consensus that changes to governance arrangements would likely be needed, but further work will be required in the New Year to refine this and develop options.



The next phase of the Humber Adaptation Pathways project will commence in the New Year. This work will provide an adaptation pathway framework which can be used by Humber 2100+ and will involve a series of workshops with partners to consider future aspirations to shape pathway development.

Scheme Updates

The Outstrays

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 are showing a significant improvement to the evacuation of water from the site. Tidal movements continue to be observed to ensure that the widening works continue to perform as intended and the site establishes as envisaged. The next phase for The Outstrays is the appointment of a Site Manager.

Work on the new Skeffling pumping station has been completed and the handover from JBA Bentley to the Yorkshire Area Operations team has taken place. The demolition of the existing pumping station is then due to commence in Spring.

Work on the new Winestead pumping station has stopped for the winter months to avoid disturbing migratory and overwintering birds who use the estuary. Our contractors will return to site at the end of February to prepare for resuming work on the scheme in March. The work is due to complete in 2026.



Photo courtesy of JBA Bentley Outstrays Managed Realignment Scheme (OMRS), East Yorkshire

Middle Humber – Capital Maintenance Programme (MH-CaMP)

For previous updates visit [Middle Humber - Capital Maintenance Programme \(MH-CaMP\)](#)

Our focus at the moment for the Saltmarshe to Yokefleet area is preparing the Business case. There has been a start-up meeting and a site walkover/familiarisation visit involving the wider project team and delivery partners. Engagement with Yokefleet Estate concerning these works is also continuing and an update meeting took place in mid-January.

The Dutch River: River Went to Ouse Confluence

For previous updates visit [The Dutch River \(Went to Ouse\)](#)

Works are progressing steadily following mobilisation and site set-up at the end of September despite the recent wet weather and high spring tides causing some challenges. The focus is currently around the downstream areas near Goole.

Extensive engagement has been ongoing ahead of and alongside mobilisation and construction start, including:

- Discussions with landowners including Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT) and Associated British Ports (ABP) as well as other stakeholders, such as Network Rail, Exolum, Northern Gas Networks and Yorkshire Water, concerning the works and associated access, agreements, permits and permissions for the delivery phase.
- Discussions with local residents and businesses around potential construction impacts and planned mitigation
- Briefings issued to local MP (David Davis); ERYC; Goole Town Council and local Parish Councils
- Press Release issued to coincide with Flood Action Week, which has received strong local coverage

The work is expected to continue over two earthworks seasons, with completion planned for summer 2027.

Barton - New Holland Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme

For previous updates visit [Barton to New Holland Flood Alleviation Scheme](#)

The first stage business case for the project was approved in August 2025, for an estimated cost of £39M. Since then, the project team and consultant Arup have agreed the scope and programme to develop the Final Business Case (FBC), including detailed design, necessary evidence, consents and approvals.



December 2013 tidal inundation – New Holland looking westwards

We are also continuing to employ our framework contractor Jackson Civil Engineering to help advise on construction methods, costs and enabling works. As such, the second phase of the ground investigation has now been completed, with associated reports due shortly.



December 2013 – defence embankment damage

The project team are continuing to consider the scope of asset resilience and repairs that could be incorporated into the scheme, e.g. at Barrow Haven and the team have had very productive meetings with Councillors from North Lincolnshire Council.

The ecological surveys have continued, with both bat and badger habitat surveys now progressing. Involved landowners have been informed. The project team are actively trying to spot any opportunities to significantly reduce the amount of funding contributions required. Construction is expected to take around 2 years, with the ambition to commence late 2027/28.

Stallingborough Phase 3 sea Defence Improvements

For previous updates visit [Stallingborough Phase 3 Sea Defence Improvements](#)

Throughout the third year of construction in 2025 both 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 near Pyewipe.

The design of the Oldfleet Drain overflow system is now complete and approved, allowing construction works to commence in December 2025.

The additional construction works to clear the New Cut Drain outfall in a safe manner, have been deferred to spring/summer 2026. The project team have identified an alternative and more efficient method to desilt the outfall culvert, but the amended Marine Licence from the MMO is still awaiting approval (now expected by Spring 2026).

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. This is expected to be undertaken along the upper reaches of the River Freshney, throughout 2026.

Landscape reinstatement work, particularly around New Cut Drain/ Pyewipe area has been designed, and the works are expected to be completed by March 2026. Environmental enhancements are being finalised, with delivery under a separate 5-year landscape maintenance contract from Autumn 2026.



Granite rock armour to 3km of the coastal flood defence



Oldfleet Drain – new access track to outfall



Oldfleet Drain overflow enabling works underway



Anglian Water sewer mains crossing at Pyewipe

Working in Partnership

Spotlight on the Humber

Stay connected to Humber 2100+ through Engagement HQ!

Did you know there's a dedicated online space where you can learn more about Humber 2100+? Our engagement platform <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/humber-2100> is designed to keep you informed and enable a two way conversation about the work we are doing to manage tidal flood risk across the Humber.

The site brings together key information about the project, including background details, updates, and resources to help you understand why this work is so important for communities, businesses, and the environment.



It's a great way to explore the bigger picture and stay connected with the latest news.

You'll also find a news feed at the bottom of the site, which mirrors the content of this newsletter. So, if you ever miss an edition or want to revisit previous updates, the platform is a handy alternative to keep you up to date.

Looking ahead we will be using the platform to ask questions, gather views, and involve you in shaping future tidal flood risk management. So, keep an eye on the site for opportunities to share your thoughts.

Take a look today and be sure to register and subscribe. It's the simplest way to stay informed about the project and the steps we are taking to build a more resilient future for the region.

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**.



[Humber 2100+ | Engage Environment Agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/humber-2100-engage-environment-agency)



HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk



@Humber_Strategy



@HumberStrategy



customer service line
03708 506 506

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188