



# Humber Strategy - Stakeholder Newsletter

December 2021

This newsletter is given to the Parishes and Wards in the strategy area, our Partnership 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 also 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](mailto: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 the IDBs and Natural England. The aims of the strategy are 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](#) on the Humber 2100+ strategy <https://arcg.is/u1rPi>



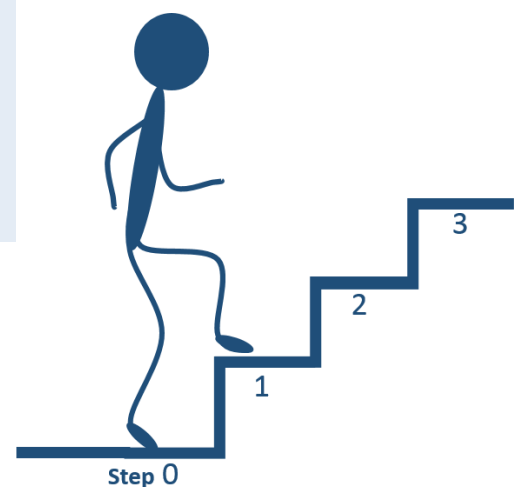
## Strategy Update

### Key Messages

In response to feedback from the Partnership a stepped approach has been adopted to further strategy development. In the next step, which we intend to begin in the New Year, the Partnership will refocus/revisit our evidence around the nature of tidal risk and the consequences of that risk, to ensure we have a common foundation from which to move forward. Once we have that we will progress to defining potential ways to manage that risk.

To navigate the way forward, the next steps for the project have been refreshed, with specific focus on the following areas:

- Working as a partnership to ensure there is a common understanding and acceptance of the scale and impacts of flood risk, both now and in the future, and the implications of how that risk is managed.



- The way that tidal flood risk is currently managed cannot continue indefinitely without having consequences further inland and the scale of risk indicates that we will need to do things differently in the future. The Humber 2100+ partnership will work together to build a consensus on this, working towards an agreement on the way tidal flooding will need to be managed strategically to meet future flood risk challenges.

Some aspects of our technical work are progressing at a different time than originally planned in the development of the Humber strategy. At the appropriate point, the partnership will be seeking to work with those that live, work and have an interest in the Humber, to shape the future approach.

*“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*

## Scheme Updates

### 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 will also enable the Environment Agency to continue to undertake important flood risk management work.

Contractors are concluding their work on site, in preparation for the main phase of construction starting next spring. Ground investigations and archaeological surveys are almost finished on the eastern side, in the expanse of land between Welwick and Skeffling. Any remaining crops on the rest of the site will be harvested and the fields cleared in preparation for next year’s work.

Work in the wet grassland area, next to Winestead Drain, has been progressing well. The site was cleared of vegetation and work has started to create the special habitat areas and future access routes. Material taken from these areas is also being stockpiled and stored over winter for construction of the new flood banks next year.

From June to August, York Archaeological Trust carried out archaeological surveys for the scheme. At the far eastern end of the site, pottery fragments suggest that the ditches and other features found there are of medieval origins. Excavations in the centre of the site also unearthed fragments of Roman pottery, pieces of building material and lots of oyster shells.



*Excavations being carried out near Welwick*

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## Humber Hull Frontages (HHF) Flood Defence Improvements

Background

The **Humber Hull Frontage (HHF) Flood Defence Improvements** reduces tidal flood risk to 113,000 properties. The scheme has upgraded 7km of flood defences along the edge of the Humber Estuary and provides a 1:200 Standard of Protection to anticipated 2040 sea levels.

A large section of the footpath was re-opened at Victoria Dock Village East at the beginning of July 2021. The footpath is part of the Trans Pennine Trail and was re-opened following reinstatement work to this area on the Humber: Hull Frontage (HHF) scheme. The new flood defence wall has been finished with brick cladding. New flood gates and glass areas have been incorporated into the new flood defence at some locations to maintain views and access.

Landscaping work is continuing across the scheme to enable the remaining public spaces to be re-opened. Work is ongoing behind the new flood defence in Nelson Street. A new promenade has been built on the landward side of the flood defence wall and the area is being resurfaced with new paving stones. Access ramps, steps and seating areas have also been created. The area will be planted with trees and shrubbery as part of the landscaping.



*Humber Hull Frontages at Victoria Dock*

## Hessle Foreshore Tidal Defences

Background

The **Hessle Foreshore Tidal Defence project (HFTD)** will construct a combination of defences to reduce the risk of tidal flooding to the Hessle area. It will reduce tidal flood risk to over 4000 residential and commercial properties when complete. It is funded by a combination of FCERM Grant in Aid, Local Growth Funding and European Regional Development Funding.

The work has been divided into three operational stages of which stage one, Hessle Clough Sluice Structure, and stage two, A63 Barrier are complete. Stage 3 - Cliff Road works on Stage 3 are nearing completion. Stage 3 involves raising of the road under the Humber Bridge and the construction of a glass and concrete wall along the southern side of Cliff Road. Full completion of the scheme is anticipated shortly.



*Stage 3 Wall progress showing installed glass panels*

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## 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 is a partnership scheme between the Environment Agency, North Lincolnshire Council and Cemex.



*Aerial photograph of the Defence Improvements*

An official opening event was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021, an outdoor event hosted by Norman Robinson with a marquee at the South Ferriby Depot where speeches were able to be held. Sir James Bevan, Councillor Rob Waltham, among others attended the event in celebration of the successful completion of the South Ferriby sea defences including 2.7km of defences and a flood gate on the A1077.

A Property Flood Resilience consultation has started in **Winteringham**, for properties at risk of tidal flooding. Initial property surveys have been completed and a report produced with recommendations for appropriate property flood resilience measures. A procurement process is ongoing to obtain the services of an installation contractor.

## Donna Nook

### Background

**Donna Nook** is a managed realignment and has opened up 106ha of land to intertidal habitat. The project reduces the risk of flooding to 1200 properties communities, businesses and 13,000 ha agricultural land in the area and has helped reproduce valuable intertidal habitats to compensate for losses in the Humber Estuary.

The Environment Agency has removed the remaining 9 piles from the breach site which is now complete. Work on the road widening scheme has progressed well over the last few months and is now largely complete.

Discussions are underway with Natural England on how best to return Little Tern Islands site to target condition. The data collected this year provides the first opportunity to directly compare the changes against the 2018 pre-breach data. Recently, soil samples have been collected to analyse saltmarsh carbon. Monitoring is required over an extensive period whilst the site finds its natural equilibrium.



*Piles being removed*

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## Research on the Humber

### Water for Farmers and Wildlife



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Environment Agency are working in partnership to deliver field-scale trials of temporary wetlands on farmland near Yokefleet. The findings of the **Water for Farmers and Wildlife** study will support the development of future flood risk adaptation and land management approaches, helping to improve the resilience of communities and ecosystems to flooding and environmental change.

Temporary wetlands are large areas of arable land that are flooded to a shallow level for one to four years. Water is pumped onto the land and then retained by small soil bunds. It creates wetland habitat beneficial for migratory birds and is shown to have financial benefits for farmers by: improving soil fertility, eradicating pests, reducing farming inputs (e.g. pesticides and fertilisers), improving crop yield, better land management following a flood. This technique has been tested and applied in the United States of America and the Netherlands with success.

Temporary wetlands are currently being trialled on two sites near Yokefleet. Both sites have now been flooded in a controlled way by pumping water from the River Ouse. Bunds have been constructed around the trial sites to ensure water is contained within the designated areas. In addition two sites have been constructed on the River Idle catchment, of which one has been flooded, and a further two are planned for construction. The trials will run until mid-2022 at which point the field will be returned to arable farmland.

For further information about the Water for Farmers and Wildlife study, please get in touch with the RSPB project manager Sarah Pullein ([Sarah.Pullein@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Pullein@rspb.org.uk)) or the Environment Agency's Humber Strategy team ([HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk)).

### Working in Partnership



### Environment Agency Flood Action Campaign 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November

Flooding can come in many forms, such as; tidal, river, surface water, pluvial (groundwater & flash) or grey water flooding. There are 5.2 million homes and businesses at risk of flooding in England alone.

**Do you know if you are at risk?** With instances of extreme weather increasing, and sea levels rising its best to be prepared. Sign up to the Environment Agency's flood warning service to keep you updated on the latest information in your local area [Flood warnings in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/flood-warnings) ([check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk](https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)).



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**Would you know what to do in a flood?** Knowing just **one** action to take can reduce the effects on your home and family, and even save a life.

This week, make it your aim to know what to do in a flood!



**FLOOD  
ALERT**

**PREPARE**

- Pack medicines, insurance documents
- Visit the flood Warning Service



**FLOOD  
WARNING**

**ACT**

- Move family, pets & belongings to safety
- Turn off gas, water & electricity



**SEVERE  
FLOOD  
WARNING**

**SURVIVE**

- Immediate danger? Call 999
- Follow emergency services' advice

## 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](http://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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