

Steeping River Community Update

August 2019



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Water Management Consortium



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



This newsletter provides an update on the work of the Steeping River Catchment Steering Group and other activities that help manage flood risk in the catchment.

Permanent repair now complete



Permanent repairs to the breach were completed at the start of August. The Environment Agency (EA) put 50 steel piles weighing 40 tonnes (the same as five HGVs) into the embankment where the breach took place. Clay and stone were placed either side of the piles to cover and re-instate the embankment. Top soil has been placed ready for grass-seeding in

the autumn. Engineers have confirmed the embankment is stable.

Additional piling work was also carried out at other locations in the bank to further strengthen it.

Silt survey commissioned

A survey is now underway of the embanked Steeping River from Firsby to Burgh Sluice and the Relief Channel. This survey will provide information on current silt and bank levels. The EA has commissioned contractors to carry out this work, which will take several weeks to complete. You will see the contractors surveying the river with specialist equipment. The findings of the survey will be shared with the community in due course.

Quinceys Pumping Station Open Day and Walking Tour

As part of the Heritage Lincolnshire Open Days, Quinceys Pumping Station at Thorpe Culvert will be open on Sunday 22 September from 10am to 4pm. The EA and Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board (LMDB) will be there to answer questions. You are invited to join them on a walking tour to learn more about the catchment. If you would like to go on the tour, or want further information, please contact Carol Davies at LMDB on 01507 328095.

Steeping River Catchment Steering Group set up

The existing group of partners that manage flood risk in the area has set up a dedicated Steeping River Catchment Steering Group with three workstreams to look at how flood risk is managed, explore any additional funding potential and ensure communication takes place with the local community.

How's the group made up?

The Steering Group, chaired by Robert Caudwell from the Association of Drainage Authorities, is made up of the EA, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), East Lindsey District Council (ELDC), National Farmers' Union, LMDB and Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Board. There is an overarching Steering Group and three workstream groups:



What are the roles of the different groups?

The **Resilience Group** is chaired by LMDB. It is made up of authorities and community members. The role of this group is to look at ways to improve the way flood risk is managed.

The **Funding and Benefits Group** is chaired by LCC. This group aims to identify funding sources and get partners in the best possible position to access that funding.

The **Communications and Engagement Group** is chaired by the EA. This group aims to ensure the community is involved and the Steering Group's activities are promoted.

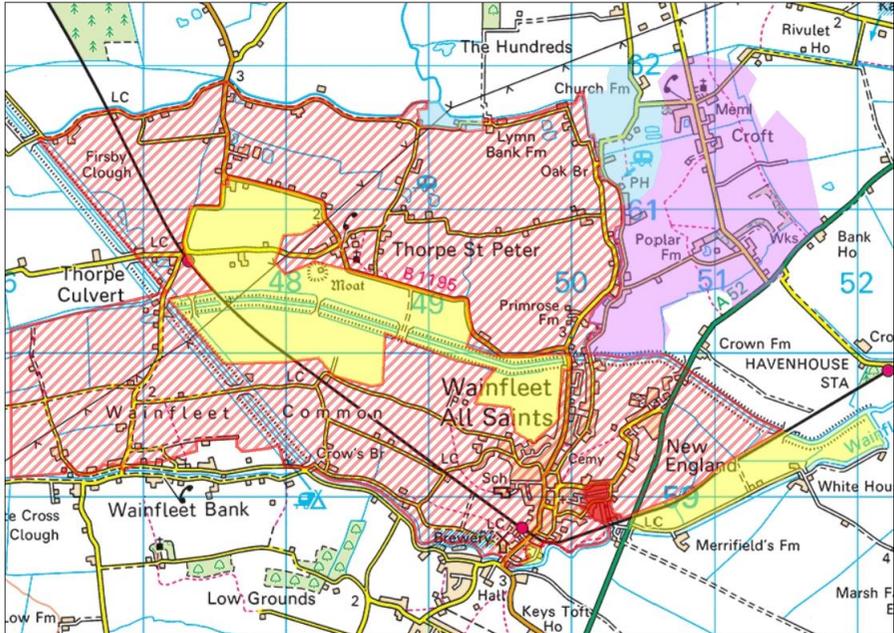
What are the initial tasks for the Steering Group?

- Looking at historical documents, data and drawings to confirm how the catchment is designed to work.
- Learning from similar lowland river systems like the Isle of Axholme and Great Ouse.
- Understanding the issues affecting you and your community.
- Starting to explore how the existing systems and structures could be improved.

Improving the Flood Warning Service

The EA has made two initial improvements which will 'go live' on 28 August:

1. A new dedicated **Wider Area at Risk around Croft Flood Warning Area** to warn of any flooding from the River Lymn and Cowcroft Drain (purple).
2. The **Wider Area at Risk around Thorpe St Peter and Wainfleet All Saints Flood Warning Area**, that was extended during the incident, now covers Wainfleet and extends west across the River Steeping (red diagonal lines).



Your home may not be at direct risk of river flooding, but could be impacted for example if water surrounds the town and you cannot use the roads. The service continues to be reviewed to see what additional improvements can be made. A leaflet with more details is available at the Woolpack on Fridays, online www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019 or call the EA for a hard copy.

Continuing support and advice at the Woolpack

If you have been affected by the floods, there is continued support. ELDC's Flood Recovery Link Worker, Lauren Marshall, and the EA will be at the **Woolpack every Friday between 10am and 12pm**. You can contact Lauren anytime via flood.recovery@e-lindsey.gov.uk or 07776 462414.



Maintenance continuing across the catchment

There is a regular maintenance programme for the EA flood defences which includes grass cutting and clearing vegetation; vermin control for non-protected burrowing animals during winter/spring; weed cutting in the rivers once or twice a year to help water move more freely; and maintenance of sluice gates. Weed cutting was completed in August with another cut taking place in the autumn, along with a further grass cut of the riverbanks. LMDB undertakes some of this work on the Steeping River and Relief Channel on behalf of the EA. Early flailing and weed cutting of Internal Drainage Board (IDB) watercourses has been completed and weed growth will be monitored, with a second cut being undertaken later in the year if required.



Contact us

East Lindsey District Council: www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019 provides information for people affected by the flooding. The council's Flood Recovery Link Worker can offer support: [flood.recovery@e-lindsey.gov.uk/07776 462414](mailto:flood.recovery@e-lindsey.gov.uk).

Environment Agency: 03708 506 506
LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
To report an incident please call (24 hour service) 0800 80 70 60

Lincolnshire County Council: 01522 552222
customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board: 01507 328095
enquiries@lmdb.co.uk

Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Board: 01205 310088
drainage@w4idb.co.uk

National Farmers' Union: Simon Fisher, 01572 824250

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