

# Steeping River Community Update

January 2022



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board  
Water Management Consortium



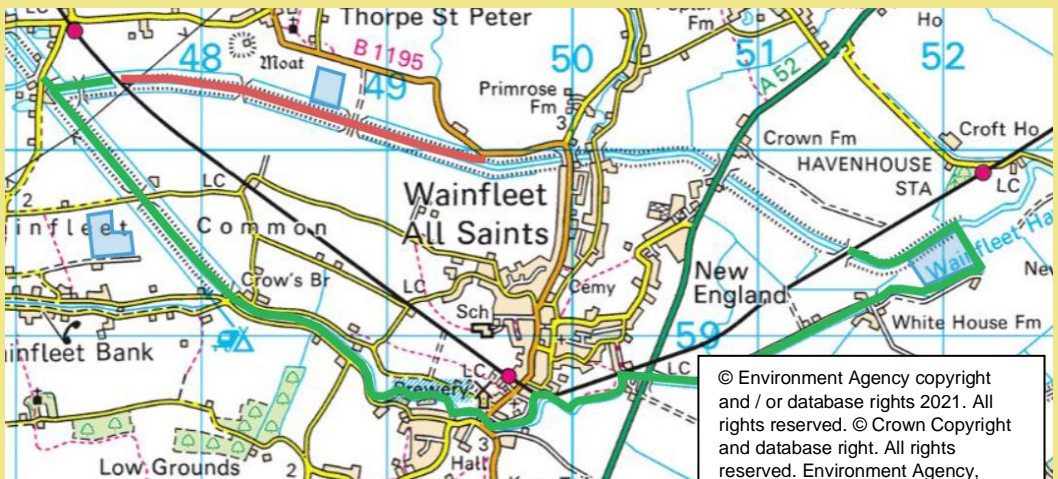
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This newsletter provides an update on the work of the Steeping River Catchment Steering Group and other actions that take place to reduce flood risk. British Dyslexia Week ran from 4 to 11 October and we have applied guidance from that to be more inclusive for those with dyslexia in this issue. We have also aimed to improve it for those with a visual impairment. We would welcome your feedback on this. Please contact the Environment Agency (EA) by calling 03708 506 506 or send an email to [LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Dredging

Phase 2 of the targeted dredging on the Wainfleet Relief Channel (WRC) between the western railway bridge and the layby on the B1195 – shown in red on the map below – will start again mid January following the successful application for the required permit. This is scheduled to be completed by mid



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March. Phase 1 – shown in green – saw a total of 55,000 cubic metres of silt removed.

Lagoon C has been constructed just off the B1195, north of the WRC – shown in blue on the map to the north of Phase 2. The silt and water mix dredged in Phase 2 will be pumped there to settle. The clear outfall water will run into nearby drains and the dried silt will eventually be mixed back into the land. Lagoons A and B have been returned to agricultural use.

Dredging remains a key priority for partners, who know just how important it is to the community as one of the ways to reduce flood risk here, alongside other steps like regular grass cutting and weed clearance.

## **Lowering the water levels**

The EA has a duty team working 24/7 who monitor the river and sea levels and weather forecast. This team issues any Flood Warnings that may be needed if property flooding is expected.

The water level is lowered upstream of Havenhouse sluice each winter to reduce flood risk. This happened at the beginning of November and affects the Steeping River and WRC. The water will return to summer levels to allow crop irrigation at the end of April.

## **Maintenance**

Weed cutting to help the dredging work took place, using a small boat and a larger long reach excavator, between mid November and early December. See photo on the next page.

The last seasonal embankment grass cut took place in October. This helps developing roots to bind and protect the bank from erosion and reduce vermin burrows. It also means the defence condition is easier to inspect.



## **Removing burrowing animals to reduce flood risk**

Mesh barriers have been installed in three places to stop burrowing animals digging into the river bank where they could weaken the defences. The work took place in November at the bottom end of Lady Wath's Beck and at Steeping Haven near Clough Farm and slightly downstream. Badger setts have been closed under Natural England licence, and the banks protected with a mesh to prevent their return, while still allowing water voles access.

## **Lady Wath's Beck**

Following a successful funding bid, investigations continue into whether something additional would help to reduce flood risk at Lady Wath's Beck at Great Steeping, north of the B1195.

## **New pointing doors at Burgh Sluice**

A new set of pointing doors is now in place to replace the old ones. This work was completed before Christmas.

## Successful bid to replenish fish stock

Native fish numbers have been bolstered, thanks to a successful bid for more stock from the EA's Calverton Fish Farm. The fish – 1,500 Roach, 1,200 Bream and 200 Tench – went into the Steeping River near the fishing platforms at the end of November, providing more opportunities for local anglers. The bid became possible following the dredging and the design of the defence strengthening, which provides enhanced habitat.



## Contact us

**Environment Agency:** 03708 506 506

[LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

To report an incident please call (24-hour service) 0800 80 70 60

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

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