

The Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project 2020

Summary

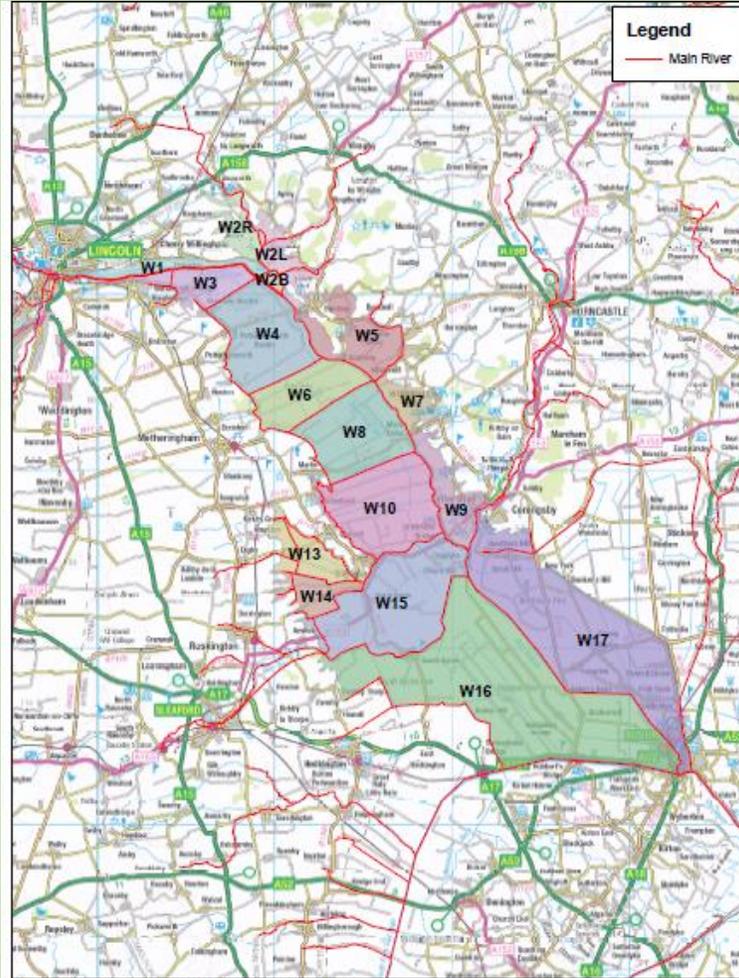
The Lower River Witham catchment is a large area of fenland between Lincoln and Boston. With land levels ranging from only 1 to 4m above sea level, this area would naturally be marshy wetland. A historic legacy of drainage works and embanked watercourses has enabled the highly productive arable land to be farmed and communities have established in the area.

The embanked channels are of significant age now (in excess of 200 years old) and increasing flood risk is testing these structures more than ever before, putting at risk the communities and economy of the area.

In 1997 the Lower Witham Strategy recommended reinforcement of key embankments whilst allowing some areas to flood, in order to relieve the pressure on the system. Since then some embankments have been reinforced, but repeated high flows have damaged more. Storage options have not been implemented, due to availability of suitable sites and difficulties in meeting HM Treasury rules for funding.

Flooding in 2019 has again highlighted the need for a sustainable long term plan to manage flood risk in the area.

The Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project will, building on the last strategy review from 2015, set the direction to achieving a resilient catchment, through an ambitious programme of works to renew critical assets and implement flood plain restoration where beneficial. This project has been granted accelerated funding to undertake surveys and project appraisal in 2020/21/22.



Environment Agency copyright and / or database rights 2020. All rights reserved. © Crown Copyright and database right. All rights reserved. Environment Agency. 100026380.

Stakeholders & engagement

From the outset, we plan to provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to express their views on the future plans to manage flood risk in the catchment. We are ensuring that engagement with communities, landowners, businesses and potential partners is a large part of the project brief.

We hope that this project will be the catalyst for a much more collaborative and accessible approach to managing the current and future risks of flooding in this area, including partnership funding of solutions. We welcome the input of all parties who have a stake in the sustainability of this unique landscape.

As the project gets going this year, we will seek to provide easy ways that you can get in touch with the project team. We also hope to invite key stakeholders to be a part of the project board. In the meantime, the box below contains key local contacts for the project.

Contacts

Local Project Lead:

katharine.samms@environment-agency.gov.uk

Project Manager:

Alex.Dillon@turntown.co.uk

Local Flood Risk Manager:

morgan.wray@environment-agency.gov.uk

Planned programme



Baseline surveys, modelling, engagement, appraisal – Phase 1 Design and construction – Phase 2 Design and Construction – Phase 3 Design and Construction

