

### **Stakeholder Update: Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire**

*This briefing provides an overview of the current recovery works being led by the Environment Agency for our external partners.*

*Please contact the Recovery Team on [recovery.lincsandnorthants@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:recovery.lincsandnorthants@environment-agency.gov.uk) for further information.*

“Since the beginning of October, Lincolnshire has been coping with significant and prolonged rainfall resulting in some of the highest levels ever seen in our watercourses. The levels in the River Witham in November were the highest recorded, exceeding the previous 2007 level. October saw two and half times the average rainfall, and the entire month’s average fell in the first two weeks of November.

The result of this persistent and heavy rain is that our catchments have become saturated, with some watercourses reaching or exceeding capacity. This has been due to the sheer amount of rain the county has seen.

Throughout this time the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards (IDB’s) have worked in partnership to manage river levels across systems, and mitigate flood risk where possible. We have operated our flood storage reservoirs around Lincoln including Branston Island on the lower Witham, and Louth, Horncastle, Market Rasen and Grimsby. The Ancholme, Witham and South Forty Foot Drain tidal outfalls have been discharging at every opportunity to release as much water as possible. The IDBs have been aligning the operation of their sluices and pumps to mitigate flooding of agricultural land, but also protect people and their homes. Their support during this time has been invaluable.

There has been over-topping in some locations and damage to defences, both on Main Rivers and ordinary watercourses. Where safe to do so we have been putting in temporary repairs, however this has been dependent on the condition of the banks for access – we cannot risk further damaging them or putting our staff at risk. Where temporary repairs are in place, we are now planning and implementing permanent repairs. However this continues to remain dependent on ground conditions.

Where there is flooding of agricultural land, we are working closely with the partners to liaise with the affected landowners and farmers. Now we have moved into recovery, we want to provide our commitment that we will continue to work together as a partnership to manage flood risk in Lincolnshire, and offer advice to those affected by flooding.”

**Norman Robinson**  
**Area Director**  
**Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire**

### **Response & Recovery Summary**

- Rainfall in October was two and half times the average for the month and in November alone Lincolnshire had over 110mm of rain. That's around twice the monthly average and on top of twice September's average rainfall.
- We had further rainfall last week which saw river levels react quickly in some areas.
- This prolonged wet weather has resulted in heavily saturated catchments and the high flows seen in many of our watercourses. This has also caused over-topping and damage to defences in some locations.
- We would like to thank the Internal Drainage Boards and Lincolnshire County Council for their ongoing support and assistance throughout this time. It continues to be invaluable as we plan and implement coordinated recovery works.
- We know the devastating impact flooding can have, which is why protecting people continues to be our top priority. The Brant, Till, Market Rasen, Freshney, Louth and Horncastle flood reservoirs protected around 8,000 properties, while 1,000 miles of raised embankment successfully held the waters back from around 180,000 properties at risk of flooding.
- As part of recovery, by the end of this week, we will have now inspected all river banks in Lincolnshire.
- We are continuing to liaise directly with IDBs, affected landowners and the NFU. We are also working with Lincolnshire County Council Highways where there are roads impacted by damage to defences.

#### **Current forecast:**

- Rain is forecast over today and Friday across the area.
- This is likely to lead to rising river levels. Our duty team are monitoring and teams are on standby ready to respond to any issues.
- At present we have two flood alerts out across Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire area. The 2 Flood Warnings for Barlings Eau and Timberland were downgraded on Wednesday ahead of the potential rainfall later in the week.

*For more detailed updates on specific works in your area, please see below.*

**Ancholme & East Coast**

South Ferriby, West Drain sluice: pointing doors, damage to lock wall; bank slip

- The pointing doors on West Drain at South Ferriby are now fully operational.
- We have carried out an assessment of the bank slip and are happy that it is structurally sound. We will monitor it closely over the Christmas period.

Hibaldstow Highland Drain

- We have finished installing piling into the embankment.
- Further work is needed on site to repair piping failures in the embankment. This work is continuing.

Kettelby Beck, Brigg

- There has been overtopping of the embankment.
- We have completed a temporary repair.
- We have revisited the site and no further issues have been identified. We will monitor the site carefully as we look at a permanent solution.

North Kelsey Beck, Brigg

- There was a breach of the embankment.
- The breach has been filled with clay to full height. Hessian protection has also been applied to the top. The repair will be completed once conditions are suitable for final levelling and re-seeding.

Brandy Wharf

- Overtopping of the embankment was reported.
- A number of site visits were undertaken to check on the embankment where it was overtopped whilst levels remained high.
- There was no visible damage to the embankment despite being overtopped.
- We will assess what works need to be carried out permanently.

Old River Ancholme Brigg

- There has been scouring to the riverbank. This has been assessed and a full repair will be needed once levels drop and conditions are suitable and safe.

New Cut Freshney Flood Storage Reservoir

- There was some erosion and slippage to the reservoir banks.
- We have carried out a temporary repair. We are happy the site is holding under current conditions.
- 500 sand bags have been taken to store at the South Ferriby depot.
- We will monitor the site carefully and will look at a permanent solution.

Ingoldmells Outfall Basin

- There has been a bank slip on the right hand side of the embankment.
- We were already on site installing piles as part of a project to prevent seepage through the embankment. The slip is being repaired as part of this ongoing project.

## **Upper & Lower Witham**

### Branston Island washlands

- Our washlands have been in use to store excess water to reduce the risk of flooding. Branston Island washland reached capacity during November, underlining the amount of rain received and the importance of washlands as flood storage areas.
- We are now slowly letting water out of the washlands while carefully managing levels in the Witham system. As of the 19<sup>th</sup> December Branston Island washland was over 75% empty.

### Sandhill Beck, Washingborough

- There is slippage to the embankment.
- We have overlaid polythene and sandbagged as a temporary repair. Approximately 12 metres of bank has eroded away.
- We are currently prioritising our repairs and a repair plan will be developed as soon as possible.

### Barlings Eau

- We have now completed the piling along the breach site and the bank slip.
- The floating equipment used for the work is now being removed from the water, and we are now de-mobilising from site.
- The next phase will be pumping the flood water off the farmland, once equipment has been removed from site.
- We have produced a pumping plan alongside Witham 3<sup>rd</sup> IDB and LCC Highways.
- Two high volume pumps have now been set up and are now pumping on site, on the embankments either side of Short Ferry Bridge. Two further pumps are planned to be installed on the road on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. These pumps will be manned 24/7 and over the Christmas period. We anticipate it will take around 3 weeks to fully pump the water from the land, although this is dependent on weather conditions.
- LCC Highways will make the decision to reopen the road when it is safe to do so.
- We are in close contact with the affected landowners, regularly updating them about the repair plans and progress.



### Park Beck, Tattershall

- The pointing doors on Park Beck are not sealing properly, which has led to some overtopping of spillway.
- We have supported pumping to mitigate flood risk
- We have sandbagged the embankment, and have had teams out on site assessing repairs.

Billinghay Skirth, Adjacent A153 just outside North Kyme



- Seepage had occurred through the embankment.
- We have started to install piles this week as part of the permanent solution. We are monitoring the site carefully.

#### Timberland Delph, breach

- We have now started piling the breach on the Timberland Delph which has impacted one farm and surrounding agricultural land. No properties have been flooded internally.
- The piling rig is working from a number of floating pontoons installed in the breach hole.
- Lighting has been brought in to allow the team to continue working for longer to get the piling in as soon as possible.
- Once the piling is complete we will use approx. 2,000 tonnes of clay to fill the scour hole and rebuild the embankment. This continues to be stockpiled in readiness.
- We have additional pumping located at Witham 1st's Blankney Pumping Station, who are on standby ready to deal with any excess water flowing onto the land.
- We have been able to begin pumping and carrying out temporary repairs at this site quickly due to nature of the breach and geography of the site. We have been able to isolate the Timberland Delph from main flows on the river Witham using existing structures as well as being a much smaller catchment compared to the Barlings Eau site. As a result, there has been significantly less water coming through the breach.
- We continue to work closely with the farmer who has offered land to store equipment and materials on.

#### Timberland Delph, piping failure

- Seepage was reported through the embankment. This is located upstream of the breach detailed above and is on the opposite bank.
- Piping was installed to reduce the risk of the embankment breaching, and a new

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wall made from 1 tonne sand bags is complete. We will monitor the site carefully and will look at a permanent solution.

Dorrington Dyke

- A breach occurred in the embankment, which flooded farmland.
- We used drone imagery to assess the breach.
- The breach has been filled with clay to full height. The repair will be completed once conditions are suitable for bank re-profiling and re-seeding.

Bishopbridge

- There has been some seepage through the embankment.
- A temporary repair has been completed. We are currently prioritising our repairs and a repair plan will be developed as soon as possible.

Cobblers Lock, River Slea bypass channel Anwick

- Overtopping on the Kyme Eau has damaged our temporary bank repair.
- We and our contractors have inspected the bank and a temporary repair has been put in place.
- We will monitor the site carefully and will look at a permanent solution.

Willoughby Road, Boston

- A minor bank slip has occurred alongside Willoughby Road in Boston.
- A temporary repair has been completed. The next step is to work with our engineers to design a permanent solution. We will continue to monitor the situation.

River Witham Tattershall to Kirkstead (Tonge Farm to Bank farm)

- There has been some slippage to the right hand side of the embankment.
- A design for a permanent solution is being finalised.
- Lincoln County Council Highways notified about concern over health & safety on the road.

Kyme Eau, Chapel Hill

- There has been seepage through embankment.
- A temporary repair has been completed. We are currently prioritising our repairs and a repair plan will be developed soon. Monitoring the site carefully.