

# Steeping River Community Update



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board  
Water Management Consortium

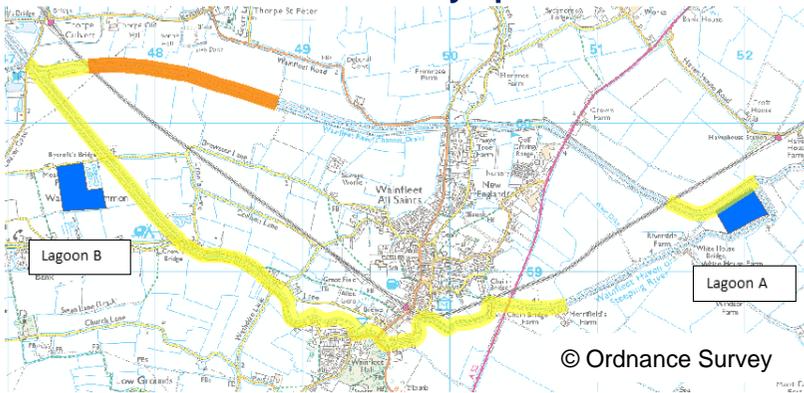


Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*Working for a better future*



September 2020

Targeted dredging will start at the end of September and we would like to update you on the plans, and answer any questions you have. If you have additional questions, please contact the Environment Agency (EA) or Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board (LMDB) using the details at the end of this community update.



This year (shown in yellow), dredging will start at Thorpe Culvert, west of the railway, moving along the Wainfleet Relief Channel (WRC) and down the Steeping River to Dovecotes Farm. The eastern end of the WRC up to the railway will then be dredged.

Next autumn, the central section of the WRC upstream of Lenton's Bridge (shown in orange) will be dredged. It is being done in two stages because two different dredger sizes are needed – a larger one first – and also to make best use of time limited funding. LMDB is managing the dredging activity.

A 'settling lagoon' (Lagoon B) has been built, just off Brewster Lane near Bycroft Bridge, where the dredged mixture of silt and water will be pumped. Look here [bit.ly/2FCZS84](https://bit.ly/2FCZS84) to see silt being pumped into a similar lagoon, and this clip [bit.ly/3iXtYld](https://bit.ly/3iXtYld) (30 seconds in) explains what Cutter Suction Dredging is. The dredging is due to start this month near Lagoon B. The second lagoon (Lagoon A) will start being constructed soon for silt from the lower section of the WRC.

This activity has meant some road closures were needed for the equipment arriving – see photo. We hope you weren't affected by this and thank you for your understanding.



Further road closures may be

needed in November and December. Advance road signage will be in place again to let people know the details.

**\*\*\*For safety reasons, especially in light of social distancing needed to combat Covid-19, please stay away from locations where activity is taking place and do not approach staff carrying out the work\*\*\***

### **Why are you only dredging some sections of the Steeping River and WRC – doesn't it all need doing?**

The silt survey last year showed the overall amount of silt had reduced by almost 20% since the previous survey in 2014, and that there are now some places with more silt and others that have less. Partners concluded, in a new Catchment Action Plan (CAP) launched in April, that targeted dredging to remove this silt forms part of the answer to help reduce flood risk. Pages 9 and 10 feature diagrams that show the survey findings. The CAP can be seen online here [www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019](http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019)

### **I've heard you are only dredging to improve wildlife habitat – people's homes flooded last year, surely that's what matters?**

The dredging is only being carried out to reduce flood risk to people's homes. Weed growth will be reduced by the dredging as it will provide a water depth of 1.5 metres – weeds tend not to grow quickly at this depth as the water is cooler. The dredging only needs to remove silt where it is above the base of the Burgh Sluice concrete outfall structure – this is the bottom of the 'doorframe' that the sluice gates fit within. Dredging any deeper would not create any additional space, or increase river flow, as silt would always be replaced with more water. And it could destabilise

the river banks. This activity does still need to be managed in the least environmentally damaging way.

### Why is the river lower?

The river has a summer level and a winter level that is lowered at the end of October. This enables licenced abstractors to water crops. It has been lowered slightly earlier this year, to help the dredger pass under the bridges.

### After the dredging has been completed, does this means we'll never have to worry about flooding again?

There is no single solution anywhere that can eliminate flood risk. However, this risk can be reduced using a combination of actions to make the biggest difference. The CAP outlines things that partners and the community can do to reduce flood risk and become more resilient. Regular maintenance activity such as weed clearance and grass cutting still play a really important part.

### How is this being funded?

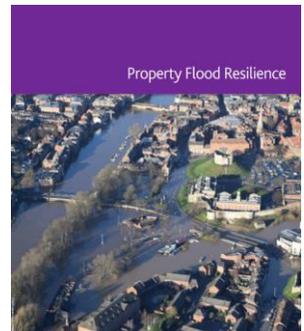
The EA has secured **£4m** to help reduce flood risk here this year. LMDB is spending almost **£300,000** to reduce flood risk too. The EA, LMDB, East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council have all contributed money towards dredging. Current Government funding rules mean the dredging has only been possible thanks to these contributions from partners.

Funding continues to be sought for priorities including increasing the resilience of the WRC and Steeping River banks to overtopping and the effects of climate change. A decision following the submission of the ESIF bid for funding has unfortunately been delayed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government due to Covid-19. A bid for funding has also been submitted for work to reduce flood risk from Lady Wath's Beck in Great Steeping in 2022.

### What can I do to help reduce my flood risk?

-  Please make sure you are signed up to the EA's **Flood Warning Service** to get advance notice of any expected flooding in the future. Just call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 to do this, or do it online [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood)

- ✚ You can monitor the **River Levels**. The gauging station in Wainfleet on the bridge near Batemans is now available online here [bit.ly/2GI6cBE](https://bit.ly/2GI6cBE) for people to see. Please note however that it is the gauging station higher up at Partney [bit.ly/31Qg7Yf](https://bit.ly/31Qg7Yf) that is used to help make decisions about when Flood Warnings are issued.
- ✚ You can create a **Flood Plan** with actions to take to help reduce the impact of any flooding. Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for a hard copy or click on the 'personal flood plan' link on this web page [www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding](https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding)
- ✚ You could also get involved with the **Community Emergency Plan** that is being created by the Town and Parish Councils.
- ✚ You could prepare an **Emergency Bag** of essential items. This might include spare glasses, waterproof coat, medication, water, food, insurance documents and pet food. You could consider hand sanitiser and a face covering too.
- ✚ Think about **Flood Products** e.g. air brick covers, flood gates. Alternatives include putting soil in bags to go across doorways, and down the toilet/sink. Here are some ideas in this new Property Flood Resilience E-magazine that could help [bit.ly/2EOIfIL](https://bit.ly/2EOIfIL)



Stories from homes and businesses who have made adaptations to help them recover more quickly after a flood



## Completed maintenance

Low spots on the defences have been reinforced and erosion has been repaired on the right-hand river bank at the top of the WRC downstream of Thorpe Culvert.

## Contact us

**Environment Agency:** 03708 506 506  
 LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk  
 To report an incident please call (24-hour service) 0800 80 70 60  
 Floodline: 0345 988 1188

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