

Steeping River Community Update

Jan/Feb 2021



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Water Management Consortium



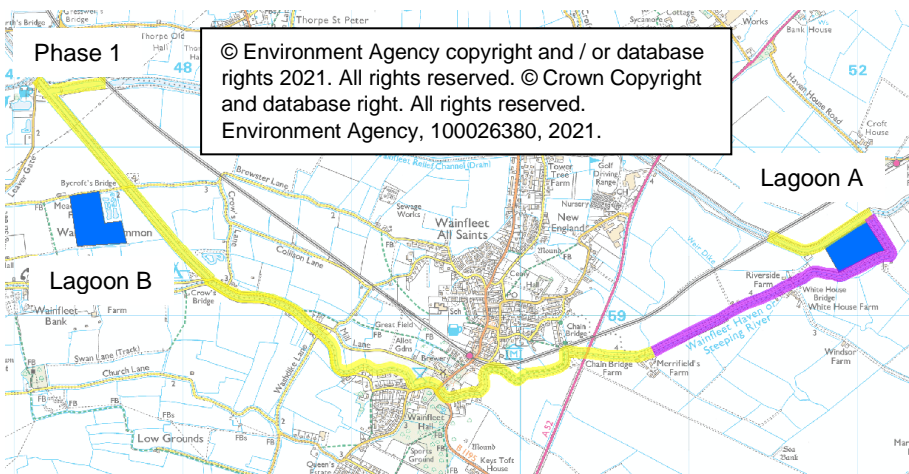
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This is an update for the community on all the activity being undertaken by partners to help reduce flood risk within the Steeping catchment. The first phase of dredging has unfortunately been impacted by Covid 19 - more details below. If you have any questions please contact Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, or the Environment Agency (EA), using the details at the end.

Dredging postponed

The Government lockdown announcements over the Christmas period to help combat Covid 19 has led to the delayed return by the dredging crews to the UK to complete the last section of the first dredging phase that was due to be completed mid January. Royal Smals, the company carrying out the dredging, is based in Holland and there are implications for international travel in and out of the country. Staff safety and wellbeing is paramount. The situation is being regularly reviewed as all parties are committed to the earliest possible completion of the Phase 1 works. There will be no additional cost incurred as a result of the delay.



More than 47,600 cubic metres of silt has been removed in total to date. The last section to be dredged in this first phase is shown in purple above, continuing then in yellow back round to the railway crossing. The 2020 dredging campaign had been extended to include the purple section

because more silt was found at this location than surveys indicated. This is not unusual in a complex silt removal operation like this. A third lagoon will start to be constructed in April/May 2021, ahead of the second phase of dredging on the Wainfleet Relief Channel planned for the autumn 2021.

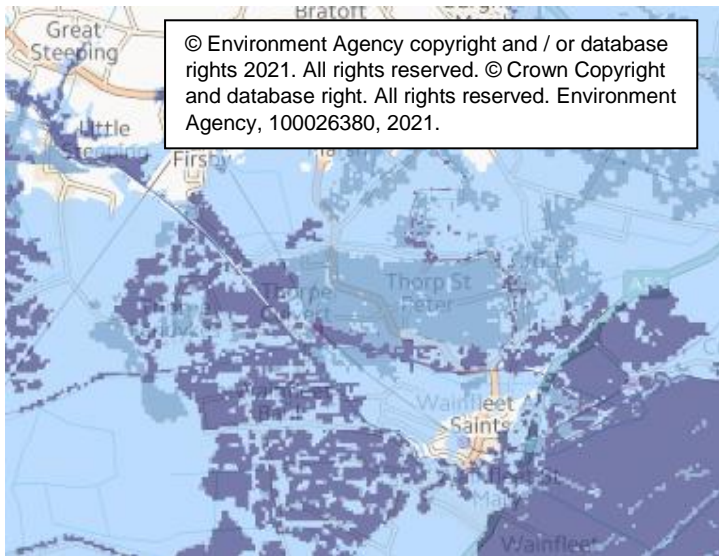
River Steeping Flood Alert issued

Many residents will have received three messages from the EA's Flood Warning Service on 23 December, 14 and 28 January to say the River Steeping Flood Alert had been issued.

*****Flood Alerts are the lowest level of warning that are issued when flooding could affect low-lying land, driveways, gardens or roads*****

The Alerts were issued because heavy rainfall in the catchment meant levels in the Steeping River and its tributaries were rising.

The next level of warning is a Flood Warning. These are issued when flooding could affect homes. Forecasts indicated that property flooding was not likely and therefore Flood Warnings were not expected to be issued.



Residents are encouraged to check if their home is at risk of flooding. The map shows the flood risk area around Wainfleet.

After the flooding in June 2019, one of the Flood Warning Areas was extended to allow people home sooner, as they could be contacted to get

immediate updates while the breach was being repaired.

A home may not be at direct risk but could be impacted e.g. if water surrounds the town and roads cannot be used.

*****Residents can easily opt out of receiving the Flood Alerts and just receive Flood Warnings relating to property instead.**

Call the EA's Floodline service on 0345 988 1188 or go online www.gov.uk/flood. Alternatively residents can send contact details to the local Flood Resilience Team frt.lincsandnorthants@environment-agency.gov.uk***

To find out when a Flood Alert has been removed, call Floodline or look online here <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

Managing flood risk naturally

Theme number 4 in the Catchment Action Plan, which can be seen online here www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019, is Flood Water Storage – please get in touch using the contact details at the end if you would like a hard copy. The theme has three sections which will be investigated. One of these relates to methods and locations for Natural Flood Management (NFM) in the upper catchment. Another section involves investigating changes to land management practices to reduce silt coming into the system. Both will involve working closely with landowners who can share their expertise and local knowledge to help explore where this could have the most impact to reduce flood risk. This could reduce water coming down the system by up to 5%.

There are many different forms of NFM, but some examples include:

- Installing leaky timber barriers to slow the flow of water down into the catchment
- Creating a 'bund' in a field to temporarily store water until the high flow has passed – see above photo
- Re-connecting rivers and their flood plains to allow storage during high flows



Experienced Farmed Environment Advisor, Lesley Sharpe, has started walking the River Lymn and its tributaries, from Tetford to Ashby by Partney in the east to see where NFM techniques could be adopted.

Lesley has initially identified lots of opportunities which, following further validation work and conversations with landowners, will be narrowed down to a suite of opportunities that can be pursued over the next few years.

The aim is to establish which options work best in different parts of the upper catchment, support landowners to embrace and implement them on their land, and achieve enough of them along the river to make a substantial difference to the flow of water downstream.

Additional activity to reduce flood risk.

✚ Reducing bank erosion:

Grass cutting took place just before Christmas in areas where no water voles are present - see photo - ahead of 'toe protection' work starting in February. This will help protect the bottom of the



embankment near the waterline from erosion. This activity is happening on the left hand bank of the WRC between Thorpe Culvert Railway and Spilsby Road and the left hand bank of the Steeping River between Crow's Bridge and Salem Bridge.

✚ Raising low spots:

Reprofiling and levelling the left and right hand bank top, between Great Steeping road bridge and the old railway bridge has commenced and will be completed in early Spring 2021.

Contact us

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@wmcidb

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

@EnvAgencyMids