

Policy and Scrutiny

Open Report on behalf of Phil Younge, Area Manager Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire, Environment Agency

Report to:	Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	4 September 2015
Subject:	Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation Schemes

Summary:

To outline progress on implementing flood alleviation schemes for Louth and Horncastle.

Actions Required:

To consider and comment on progress made towards implementing flood alleviation schemes for Louth and Horncastle.

1. Background

Louth and Horncastle have suffered historic flooding from main rivers, most recently in 2007.

Louth is a “rapid response” catchment situated on the River Lud with a low standard of protection from flooding. The preferred flood risk management option is to build two flood storage reservoirs to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Louth.

Horncastle is situated on the confluence of the rivers Bain and Waring. Flooding occurs due to high flows in both watercourses. The town has a significant number of properties with a low standard of protection. Flood events have been recorded in 1920, 1960, 1981, 1993 and 2007. The preferred option is to build a flood storage reservoir on the River Bain and individual property protection for those at risk from the River Waring.

In March 2009 it was concluded that external contributions would be necessary to make any scheme viable. A partnership approach to funding was therefore adopted by; The Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the Witham Third Drainage Board to deliver flood storage schemes at both locations. Both Town Councils have agreed in principle to fund future maintenance of the completed schemes.

Key Information

	Louth	Horncastle
Current probability of Main River flooding in any year	5% (1in20)	10%(1in10) Bain 20%(1in5) Waring
Probability following construction works*	0.67% (1in150)	1% (1in100)
Number of properties benefiting from scheme	355	288
Estimated construction completion	May 2016	2016
Capital Cost including contingency (today's prices)**	£6.5 million	£8.2 million

* the figure quoted for annual probability of river flooding post-construction works is based on current river flows. For Louth, the probability is expected to increase to 1.25% (1in80) over the 100 year life of the scheme based on the latest climate change guidance. We have not yet undertaken the climate change calculations for Horncastle but similar changes should be expected.

** includes additional £430,000 acceleration funding, secured for potential Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) works.

The last Project Board meeting date 11 August 2015 was used to have a media event to mark the start on site for both these projects.

Louth

Work started on site in July. The archaeological investigations did not reveal anything of interest. Site compound and fencing is complete and work has started on stripping topsoil.

We are continuing our negotiations with landowners to agree purchase and compensation values for the land we are likely to impact on as part of this scheme.

Horncastle

Work started on site in July. The archaeological investigations revealed some timber posts most likely to be part of an iron age bank revetment. An archaeological mitigation strategy has been prepared and agreed with the County Archaeologist. Part of the area of interest falls underneath the footprint of the dam and this area will be excavated first before progressing onto the borrow pit. At this stage it is difficult to quantify the impact of these finds on the programme. If necessary, a revised programme will be reported in the next paper. Top soil stripping and excavations in other areas of the site are continuing in line with the original programme.

We are nearing agreement with the landowners for the purchase of the embankment footprint and are continuing negotiations with landowners regarding flood easement compensation.

2. Conclusion

Construction work has commenced at both Louth and Horncastle. Archaeological investigation has found timber items at Horncastle which will cause a delay to the programme. It is not possible to identify the length of the delay but the mitigation strategy has been developed to keep any delay to a minimum.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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