

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

Report to:	Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 December 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	July 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.

Louth

Work started on site in July and is progressing according to programme. The control structures at both sites are nearing completion. Culverts have been installed on the south site. Work to the earth embankment on the north site is 33% complete. There have been site visits with the town Council, and secondary school.



Aerial view the North Site



Control Structure on the South Site

Horncastle

Work began on site in July 2015. There have been significant archaeological finds on the site. The lattice timber work has provided an insight into how the river was managed. Samples have been sent for carbon dating. Due to the type of material at the site, construction of the main earthworks has stopped for the winter period. Work is continuing on the control structure. There have been sites visits with the Town and Parish Councils. The scheme is expected to finish in July 2016.

Agreements with the landowners are nearing completion and some advance payments have been made.



Concrete pour to base of control structure

Fixing steelwork to central dividing wall

2. Conclusion

Construction work has commenced at both Louth and Horncastle. The archaeological investigation at Horncastle and the susceptibility of the available material to wet weather has caused a delay 2-3 month delay to the programme. The clay material at Louth is enabling the two schemes to progress according to programme, although there remains a risk of delay due to inclement weather.

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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