

Steeping River Community Update

March 2020



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Water Management Consortium



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



This newsletter provides an update on the work of the Steeping River Catchment Steering Group and other activities that help manage flood risk in the catchment.

Catchment Action Plan community event

A further community event is taking place, kindly hosted again by Batemans Brewery, to launch a new partnership Catchment Action Plan:

Saturday 4 April, 11am to 3pm

The Plan will identify long term, sustainable actions that could reduce the risk of flooding from the river. It contains a range of options under four themes:

1. Improving flow through the system
2. A resilient community and infrastructure
3. Strengthening and maintaining defences
4. Flood water storage

Please do help us raise awareness of the event. We hope to see you there.

Severe Flood Warnings issued for Wainfleet

Flood warnings - know what to do?



**FLOOD
ALERT**

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk](https://www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk)



**FLOOD
WARNING**

ACT

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE
FLOOD
WARNING**

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

What happened on Sunday 16 February?

Four Severe Flood Warnings - the EA's highest level of warning meaning danger to life - were issued in the Wainfleet All Saints, Wainfleet St Mary, Croft and Thorpe St Peters areas for the first time at 11pm on Sunday 16 February.

Flood Warnings had been issued earlier at 7.15pm telling people 'immediate action required' – see front cover picture and next page for examples. This is because river levels were forecast to go higher than in June last year, meaning overtopping was likely and properties would be affected.

More rain fell than forecast, which increased the risk of overtopping or a breach. This is the reason for issuing the Severe Flood Warnings. These were lifted at 5.25am on Monday after the peak – which was just short of the recorded level in June - had passed. The Flood Warnings were lifted later that day at 2pm.

Severe Flood Warnings are issued very rarely and only when there is a risk to life. The last time they were issued in Lincolnshire was in 2013 - for the entire Lincolnshire coast. This saw more than 850 properties flooded in Boston and elsewhere.

What was the emergency response?

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum – a partnership between the EA, local authorities, internal drainage boards and blue light services which convenes when there is an emergency – was stood up so they could all work together to help protect people. The EA fed into these discussions to help the police response on the ground, so they were ready to lead if evacuations were needed.

EA staff were involved in constant monitoring of weather forecasts, river flows using telemetry and sluices using webcams throughout the night - right across the county - from its incident room. LMDB also had their incident room open and were working closely in partnership with the EA to monitor and manage river flows in tandem through the lowland systems. Both organisations deployed staff throughout the night checking the water levels, banks and watercourses to assess the need for any immediate repairs and further action. Coronation Hall was opened on Monday to provide advice and guidance for residents on Monday.

What does a Flood Alert mean?

The first early stage of warning, a Flood Alert, was issued on Saturday 15 February at about 6.15pm. This means flooding is expected on low-lying land and roads. The Flood Alert has been issued numerous times before Christmas. Residents are not encouraged to sign up for these as they do not relate to property flooding and they are issued quite regularly. It is more common for partners including highways officers, the police and media to be signed up for them. If you would like to change your registration, please call the EA's Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or email frt.lincsandnorthants@environment-agency.gov.uk

What action can you take to be ready for emergencies?

In addition to the relevant actions when warnings are issued shown on the front page you could:

- ✚ Create a **Flood Plan** for your home with actions to take to help reduce the impact of any flooding. Call the EA's Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for a hard copy or click on the 'personal flood plan' link: www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding
- ✚ Prepare an **Emergency Bag** of essential items. This might include spare glasses, change of clothes, waterproof coat, any medication, water, food, insurance documents and pet food.

✓ Useful items for your emergency bag



- ✚ **Move things** - e.g. important documents, passports, photos, laptops - upstairs or onto higher shelves
- ✚ Consider **Flood Products** for your home - e.g. air brick covers, flood gates. Look here for ideas www.bluepages.org.uk You could even put soil in bags to go across doorways, and down the toilet/sink.

- ✚ View details of current **EA flood warnings** that have been issued here: www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings or call Floodline.
- ✚ Monitor **current river levels** online here: www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels or call Floodline.

How can you help your community?

Get involved in the local Community Emergency Plan that is being developed jointly by Wainfleet Town Council, Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council, Thorpe St Peter Parish Council and Croft Parish Council.

This will:

- ✚ help the community look after its welfare until emergency services arrive
- ✚ enhance the emergency response by providing invaluable local knowledge
- ✚ speed up process of getting the right information by ensuring all the community's important contacts are present and correct
- ✚ give direct access to the county's 24/7 Emergency Planning Duty Officers helping to safeguard the community when it needs it most

For more information please contact resilientlincs@lincoln.fire-uk.org

Contact us

East Lindsey District Council:

Flood Link Recovery Worker - flood.recovery@e-lindsey.gov.uk/07776 462414
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019

Environment Agency: 03708 506 506

LInquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

To report an incident please call (24-hour service) 0800 80 70 60

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

Lincolnshire County Council: 01522 552222

customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board: 01507 328095

enquiries@lmdb.co.uk

Witham Fourth District IDB: 01205 310088

drainage@w4idb.co.uk

National Farmers' Union:

Philip Odling and Christian Ford (Spilsby) 01790 752843, Alistair Green (Boston and Wainfleet) 01205 363051, Regional Environment Adviser Simon Fisher 01572 824250