

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Sirens Update

October 2020

What is the risk of river and tidal flooding and how is it managed?

There are 33,235 properties at risk of flooding from the main rivers or sea within North East Lincolnshire. Grimsby and Cleethorpes have a high standard of river and coastal flood defences. The Environment Agency (EA) has a responsibility for managing these two types of flood risk.

Tidal flood risk is reduced by the flood defences along the Humber coastline and at the port of Grimsby. These are managed by a combination of the EA, Associated British Ports and North East Lincolnshire Council.



- Following the flooding of around 1,000 properties in 1978, the sea defences near Suggits Lane were constructed in 1981.
- New concrete wave walls were installed around the port between 2013 and 2016 to improve these defences at a cost of £19M – see photo.
- The Willows and Wybers Wood estates benefit from the River Freshney flood alleviation scheme which diverts water into a storage reservoir and away from people's homes. This was constructed in 2000, with further improvements in 2012.

- Further improvements to the tidal defences between Immingham and Grimsby are expected to be constructed between 2022 and 2023.
- Working in partnership to develop 100 year Humber Strategy to manage tidal flood risk. Ambition to deliver strategy that supports sustainable development and a prosperous Humber that can adapt to future challenges like climate change and sea level rise.

The 18 flood sirens were originally installed after the EA's Flood Warning Service was first launched in 2006 because this didn't have the capacity to reach all properties at coastal flood risk. One was subsequently upgraded to warn of flooding from the River Freshney/New Cut Drain following the 2007 flooding. The sirens still did not cover all properties at risk – the circles below show an audible range of 72% - and cannot always be heard, depending on things like wind direction and double glazing.

The siren locations are shown as red stars on the map to the right. The black star is the siren that was removed when Nelson House was demolished. The last time Severe Flood Warnings were issued here was in December 2013 when a tidal surge occurred. This is the



Free Flood Warning Service:

The EA's free Flood Warning Service has been much improved since 2006 and is now available for all properties at risk of tidal/river flooding here. The warnings can be issued in a more targeted way, and can give information much sooner, to help communities be prepared.

For this reason, the intention is to stop using the old flood sirens from 31 December 2020.

This means the EA can continue to focus investment where it will have the biggest positive impact on communities.

only time the sirens have been sounded for real. The map colours represent different Flood Warning Areas, created by the EA, in areas at risk of river/sea flooding.


How can residents reduce the impact of any flooding on their home?


Although flood risk can be reduced, it can't be removed entirely, but there are steps people can take to lessen the impact. The free Flood Warning Service that people can sign up for means they can receive warnings directly before any sea or river flooding might affect their home.

It is more customer-friendly because it is more targeted than the sirens and residents can sign up to the ways that suit them best - whether they are at home, work, or even at the shops. **It is really easy to sign up and we encourage all residents to make use of this free service:**

Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or do it online:
www.gov.uk/flood

Make most of service by registering 5 ways to get the message using a combination of:

	Landline		Mobile phone
	Text message		Email address



The EA can reach most people (69% of the properties at risk of flooding from the sea or main rivers) with a warning to just a single BT landline, EE, O2, Three or Vodafone mobile phone - if an address is registered. As well, there are 14% of residents who have proactively signed up fully.

*****This means 83% can be reached with at least one message*****

The EA is unable to reach 17% with a warning. These are mostly in the East Marsh, West Marsh, Sidney Sussex and Heanage Wards but other areas too. Please encourage residents to get in touch to make sure their home isn't one of them.

How else can residents be prepared?

- + They can create a **Flood Plan** 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 You could print hard copies of the Flood Action Guide to distribute to help people.
- + Prepare an **Emergency Bag** of essential items. This might include any medication, a waterproof coat, spare glasses, water, food, insurance documents and pet food.
- + Consider **Flood Products** e.g. air brick covers, flood gates. Some ideas are available here www.bluepages.org.uk Alternatives include putting soil in bags to go across doorways and down the toilet/sink.
- + Residents can also keep an eye on **local radio/TV news bulletins** or visit the Met Office website www.metoffice.gov.uk

For more information and support contact:

Rachael McMahon, Flood Resilience Team, Environment Agency
ftr.lincsandnorthants@environment-agency.gov.uk
or use the customer service line phone number below

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88