

Making changes to your local watercourses

January 2018

Rationalising the Main River Network - January Consultations



This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with our proposed changes to the way your local watercourses are managed, regulated and maintained.

In October 2017 community drop-in events were held in the South Forty Foot catchment to discuss the option of re-designating several sections of watercourses from main rivers to ordinary watercourses – a term we refer to as de-maining.

The feedback received is being used to shape the proposals for a formal consultation starting in January 2018.

The Environment Agency want to strengthen local flood risk management and decision making by ensuring the right bodies are managing the right watercourses.

All the sections of watercourse which we are proposing to de-main have low levels of flood risk and are not associated with major rivers or major population centers.

What are we doing

The Environment Agency has identified five, low risk locations across England where de-maining may be a suitable option.

Partners we are working with already have experience of managing and maintaining stretches of ordinary watercourses. By de-maining some main river to ordinary watercourse, our partners can maintain more of their local watercourses for local communities.

The South Forty Foot Catchment has been chosen as a pilot area, in which 16.8km of watercourse in the upper reaches have been identified for de-maining. Please see the map below for the location of these watercourses. The proposal is for Black Sluice IDB to take on responsibility for maintaining these watercourses in the future. They will also take ownership of any Environment Agency assets such as bridges and sluice structures.

The feedback from the October drop-in events was very positive and we have worked closely with Sluice IDB to answer any queries and resolve concerns. This has helped shaped the proposal for the formal consultation.

“We want to strengthen local flood risk management and decision making by ensuring the right bodies are managing the right watercourses.”

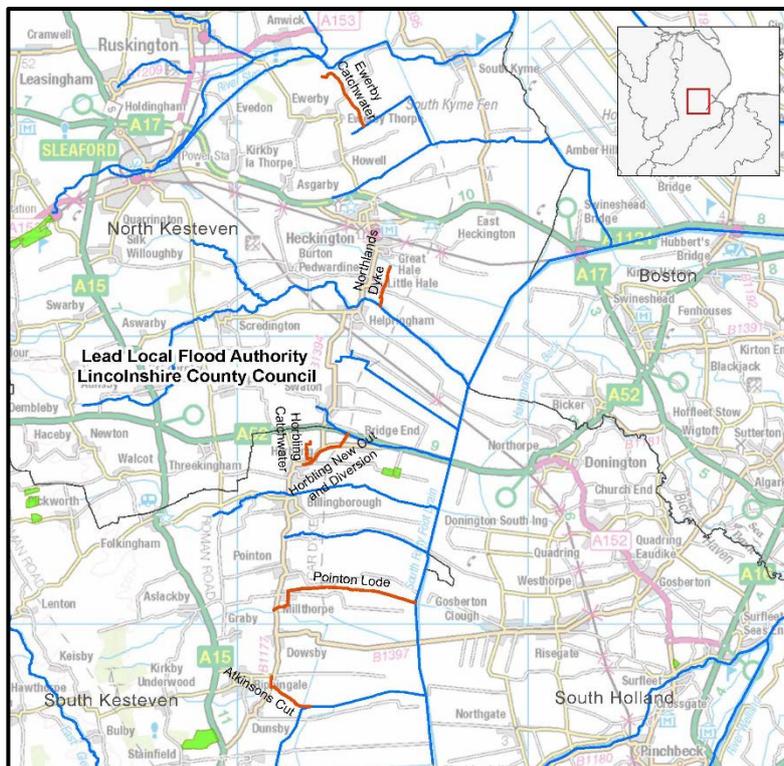
The watercourses proposed for de-maining are:

- Ewerby
- Horbling Catchwater, New Cut & Diversion
- Pointon Lode
- Atkins Cut
- Northlands Dyke

Formal consultation

We are consulting to seek the views of individuals, groups and organisations, who are affected by, or interested in our proposals. This is a public consultation and we welcome everyone's views.

This consultation sets out all of the information on our proposals. It explains how the proposed sections of watercourse are currently managed and funded and provides details on future management and funding if de-maining goes ahead.



Pre-consultation material is available ahead of the consultation on the link below.

You will be able to view and give feedback between midday on the 15 January 2018 and midday on the 12 February 2018. There will be an option to view information and give feedback on each of the proposals or the De-maining Project as a whole by accessing the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/rationalising-the-main-river-network-de-maining-proposals>.

If you'd prefer to submit your response by email or letter, or if you'd like to ask for a printed version of the document to be posted to you please contact:

PSO Witham,
Environment Agency,
Ceres House,
2 Searby Road,
Lincoln,
LN2 4DT
Email: AnglianNorthernRFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk

How can I find out more?

We understand that you may have some questions or concerns that you would like to discuss. If you do please get in touch with the local Environment Agency leads detailed below.

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The consultation opens on 15 January 2018 and closes on 12 February 2018.