

River Eau Maintenance Update

April 2020

Coronavirus (COVID – 19) Response

The Environment Agency is continuing to protect people and the environment, and work with our public partners during this difficult time. Our field teams are currently focusing their efforts on maintaining critical flood risk management assets, and they are following Government guidelines to carry out these works safely. We are focusing on supporting our staff to work in these challenging conditions, and we are responding to challenges and changes as they emerge. If you see Environment Agency staff carrying out critical work, we ask that you respect social distancing advice and do not approach our staff whilst they are working in the field. During this time, general enquiries to the Environment Agency can still be made via **email** on enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. Further information about our operational response can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

Weed removal – Scotter Village

Working with our partners, the Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board and the Environment Agency have recently carried out targeted maintenance works on parts of the River Eau on Lindholme and Riverside, in Scotter.



The works involved removing sections of weed, along with the rootballs and associated silts and debris. The works were targeted to areas where an increase in weed growth had been identified, and the removal will help to improve channel capacity and conveyance in the river along these sections. The weed and associated silts and debris generated from this work have been placed on the river bank adjacent to the works, where this material will dry out and breakdown naturally. Once the material is sufficiently dry and we are able to carry out the work safely, we will ensure that the material is regraded and grass seeded, so that the grassed margin to the river can be reinstated.

Weed and silt removal – Downstream of Scotter

During the 2018/19 winter period, the Environment Agency carried out weed removal in a section of the River Eau downstream of the Village (between Scotter and Scotterthorpe).



More recently, it was identified that additional work could be carried out in this area, and we have just completed works to remove further weed and associated silts and debris on this stretch. Water Voles are present at this location, so the

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work was carried out under a Water Vole Licence. A Licenced Ecologist was present to ensure that the works were compliant with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The works have improved channel capacity and conveyance in the river along these sections, and now that the works are complete, we will carry out a review of the future maintenance regime for this section.

Treeworks - Playing field, Scotter

The Environment Agency have recently carried out treeworks in the playing field stretch of the River Eau. The work involved removing overgrown trees in the channel to help increase capacity within the river and to remove potential sections where blockages could occur. We worked with the Playing Field Committee to ensure we did not damage the playing field during the works and we installed some temporary matting on the fields so that there would be minimal damage. The works have now been completed, and we have planted tree saplings in the grassland area at the bottom of the playing field. The Playing Field Committee are looking to develop this area further to try and reconnect the playing field to the river, and are planning further improvements in future to enhance this area.

Routine maintenance works

The Environment Agency carries out several routine maintenance activities on the River Eau annually.



In the lower part of the catchment we maintain the raised flood defences by carrying out vegetation management and vermin control. At the outfall of the River Eau (where it meets the River Trent), we carry out maintenance and operational checks on the weed screen, penstocks and flap valves to ensure that they are in good working condition and are clear of debris. During the winter months we carry out treeworks on the River Eau, concentrating on removing trees and branches within the channel which could reduce the flow of the river in higher risk parts of the catchment, such as around Scotter village.

Natural flood management (NFM) – River Eau upstream catchment

The Environment Agency is exploring the potential role that NFM could play in reducing flood risk in the upper parts of the River Eau Catchment. NFM is when natural processes are used to reduce the risk of flooding by slowing the flow of a river through storing flood water further up in the catchment. Some examples of NFM include:

Increasing storage – creation of temporary floodwater storage which can fill up during a flood event.

Increasing catchment and channel roughness – using natural processes to help “slow the flow”, such as leaky dams, restoring bends and meanders in rivers and planting trees in flood plains.

The River Eau catchment has a large network of tributaries, land drains and dykes in the upper catchment. There is potential to explore options with our partners and landowners to see how we can work together to slow down some of these tributaries to help reduce flood peaks downstream.

What else are we doing?

We are also continuing to investigate other options as described during the Public Meeting in March to help to reduce the risk of flooding to those affected in Scotter. We will continue to work closely with the Parish Council and our partners to identify those measures that will have the most effect on reducing the impacts of flooding and will keep the Parish Council and residents informed on future progress.

Are you interested in becoming a flood warden?

Community flood warden schemes are completely voluntary, and can consist of a single person or a group of people acting as volunteers in the community to help to raise awareness of any flood risks, pass on flood warnings, and help to prepare for flooding and to help vulnerable people both during and after flooding has occurred. The primary aim of the role is mainly around communications, both with your local community and with flood risk management authorities such as the Environment Agency and Councils. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer flood warden please contact EMDenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. We are able to support those who are interested with training, along with any equipment and resources required to assist them in carrying out the role. General information and support for communities at risk from flooding, can be found online at:

www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

www.communitiesprepared.org.uk

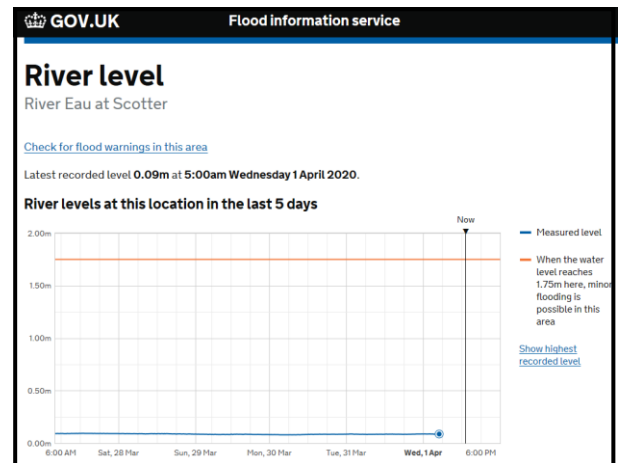
Online river levels

Did you know that you can access river level data online?

The Environment Agency has a network of monitoring station throughout England, including one in Scotter. This station is

regularly checked, and the data is freely available and can be found at:

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>



Online asset management data

Did you know that you can find a copy of our routine maintenance programme for the River Eau online?

The Environment Agency's site allows you to explore key asset management datasets, including our maintained assets and capital schemes and can be found at:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/index.html>

Working with Scotter Parish Council

A comment from the Parish Council:

"The Parish Council are very pleased to see the beginning of works to reduce the risk of flooding within the Village of Scotter. The river is one of the main areas of beauty in the village but also an area of great concern for affected residents. We welcome any work that will help them to get their homes back and reduce the fear of further flooding. We thank the EA for these works and look forward to the continuing programme."

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