



Common Vision for Water Management in Boston and the surrounding areas

Overview

The partner organisations consisting of the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, Boston Borough Council and the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board are committed to delivering a complex and ambitious range of projects in Boston, principally but not exclusively to deliver; flood risk protection, effective land drainage, and water level management to promote economic and environmental benefits and enhance navigation. These projects are:

- The Boston Tidal Barrier
- Water Level Management in Boston and the Fens Waterways Link
- The Black Sluice Pumping Station and South Forty Foot Catchment

Whilst the projects all have commonality in terms of a number of shared objectives, such as flood risk protection for example, there is also the potential for conflicting demands. Partner organisations will work together to ensure a coordinated approach to delivering the projects to ensure, where possible, that decisions are not taken individually which could prejudice the future delivery of the other projects or shared objectives, either in the short or longer term.

The Boston Tidal Barrier

The Boston tidal barrier is a £100.7 million scheme programmed to be delivered by 2019, which will provide improved flood protection to over 20,000 homes and businesses, protecting against tidal surges such as the 2013 event which flooded over 820 homes and businesses. The barrier has the ability to be utilised in the future to control water levels in the Haven generating economic and environmental benefits for Boston and aiding navigation between The Witham and The Black Sluice Navigation, once appropriate subsequent approvals have been sought and granted.

Water Level Management (WLM) and the Fens Waterways Link

The ultimate aspiration is for Boston to hold stable water levels upstream of the barrier to reflect those in the river Witham throughout the boating season. This would create an attractive and vibrant riverside environment and encourage the town to “turn towards the river” and celebrate its waterways heritage, attracting private sector investment to meet new demands from tourists, visitors, maritime visitors and residents. The design of the barrier is, therefore, being carried out on a no regrets approach whereby future measures to deliver water level management upstream of the barrier will not be precluded.

The Fens Waterways link will be a major waterway development eventually connecting over 240km of existing and new waterways, linking the Cathedral cities of Lincoln, Peterborough, Ely and Cambridge. Projects contributing to the Link are being developed and delivered at Bedford, Denver, Northampton, Boston, Hubberts Bridge and Crowland. The Link will increase boating visitors to the Fens with towns like Boston providing heritage, character and a place to rest and relax. A stable water level in Boston will encourage boats to moor and visit the town and will also ease their on-ward travel into the Black Sluice and beyond.

The Black Sluice Pumping Station and South Forty Foot Catchment

Following the consultation on the future of the Black Sluice Pumping Station and the South Forty Foot catchment, the South Forty Foot Steering Group has been established to assist in shaping the future of both. Provisionally, a two year transitional arrangement is proposed, where the EA continue to operate the BSPS, but with increasing involvement of the BSIDB.

This will involve, looking for solutions and funding opportunities for future management viewing the entire catchment holistically, whilst taking account of; flood risk, land drainage, water resources, water level management and navigation, the water framework directive and the ecosystem.

Signed:



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