

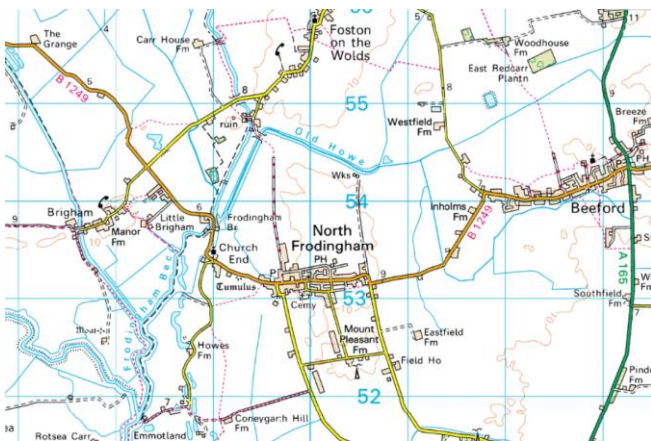
Keeping you informed

18 April 2018

On 3rd April 2018 a breach occurred on an embankment at Old Howe

Overview

Old Howe is a river in the upper River Hull catchment. The embankments either side of Old Howe protect agricultural land.



These embankments are old and in poor condition and, under current government funding rules, we have to invest where we can provide the greatest benefit to people and residential property at risk of flooding. These banks therefore do not attract the funding required to maintain them.

Flooding impact

The breach occurred on the left bank of the river resulting in water escaping into lower lying field drains.

We had no reports of residential properties flooding as a result of this breach, however agricultural land was affected.

Our response

To make sure that we have the time to make the best decision for people and the environment, we have adopted a two-step response to the issue.

We have put in place some temporary measures, as detailed below, and we will work closely with our partners to consider what might be possible in the longer term.

1. Temporary measures

We have put a temporary dam in place to stop water from the River Hull back washing up through Old Howe and into the land drains. We plan to move this dam closer to the River Hull and stabilise it further.

The breach will be formalised into a temporary spillway to prevent further erosion.

We will continue to monitor our pumping regime further downstream at Wilholme and Hempholme.

2. In the longer term

We understand the importance of agriculture to the area in terms of food production, people's livelihood and land drainage however we have to work within government funding rules.

Under these rules, it is unlikely that the agricultural benefit that would result from protecting Old Howe would be able to attract Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding for the repair.

Therefore, with the temporary works in place, we will commission a study to explore what future options there may be for a partnership approach at Old Howe. We will engage partners and stakeholders throughout this process.

Contact

If you require further information please contact us on YorksCorrespondence@environment-agency.gov.uk referencing 'Old Howe'.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88