

New pumps keep £35 million flood defence scheme on track

Press release

Work to overhaul Keadby pumping station near Scunthorpe has taken a significant step forward thanks to the arrival on site of the first 2 of 6 new pumps.



The new pumps at Keadby pumping station

It is all part of a £35 million investment to upgrade the 80-year-old pumping station which will bring both flood-risk and environmental benefits to the Isle of Axholme area which takes in some 500km of North Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire.

The two pumps were tested in Holland before they were shipped to England. Together, they have the combined power to fill an olympic swimming pool in about 5 minutes.

They have now arrived at Keadby as work on the project continues with contractors and staff from the Environment Agency following recent Public Health England safe working advice.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

The first 2 pumps will be installed over the next 2 months; the remaining 4 pumps will be delivered and installed before the end of the year.

After the pumps are installed we will be able to finish refurbishing the pumping station and re-constructing the outfall to the River Trent.

Throughout the work we will continue to operate the pumping station to manage flood risk and water levels. The work is on schedule and

the new pumps will be operational in early 2021, with the rest of the refurbishment complete by the end of 2021.

This project is part of the Environment Agency's £140 million asset repair programme for 2020. Work on the projects continue where it is safe for our teams and delivery partners to do so.

We are following the latest guidance from Public Health England to ensure the safety of our staff, partners and the communities we work in is a priority.

Project background

The current station has reached the end of its working life because the pumps and the equipment are unreliable, costly to maintain and are increasingly at risk of breaking down. However, they will be maintained and will be fully operational until the station update is complete.

The scheme also includes the construction of new electrical equipment buildings within the existing site and rebuilding of the outfall headwall.

The contract was awarded to GBV, a joint venture between Galliford Try and Black & Veatch.

The pumps and motors are the first 2 of 6 to be installed. Each weighs around 10 tonnes. They have been delivered as part of GBV's scope of supply. They are Pentair Fairbanks Nijhuis pumps (from Holland). The new pumps are also 'fish-friendly' and will allow safe navigation for fish and eels on their natural migration. The measure is recognised as vital to protecting wildlife and improving the health of rivers.

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[ESFA Update: 13 May 2020](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content] Latest information and actions from the Education and Skills Funding Agency for academies, schools, colleges, local authorities and further education providers

[Recovered appeal: land at Moor Lane, Woodthorpe, York \(ref: 3233973 – 13 May 2020\)](#)

Decision letter and Inspector's Report for a recovered appeal for 516 residential units, a local centre, a sports pavilion and associated infrastructure, the demolition of existing buildings and structures, and creation of an Ecological Protection and Enhancement Zone and vehicular access arrangements.

[Windrush online engagement events](#)

To ensure those affected by Windrush can continue to access help and support during the coronavirus pandemic, the Home Office will be running a series of online engagement events.

These will start later this month and will follow a similar format to the engagement events that have already been held around the country.

Those affected can get advice from members of the Commonwealth Citizens' Taskforce and the Windrush Compensation Scheme, who will explain what help and support is available and how to make a claim for compensation.

The digital solution has been devised to ensure vital outreach and engagement can continue on Windrush. The government continues to be absolutely committed to righting the wrongs experienced by the Windrush generation and ensure nothing like this happens again.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Reaching all those affected by Windrush is a priority and these online events make sure that the vital outreach and engagement on Windrush continues during the pandemic.

This will help ensure that all those who need help applying for compensation or to the Windrush Taskforce can continue to get any support they need.

The Home Office will work closely with stakeholders who will host or co-host the events using their own online conferencing channels and manage any registration for the event.

This will be guided by stakeholders, who will identify the most effective platforms for the communities they work with, subject to those channels meeting security requirements.

These measures have been put in place whilst the UK continues to observe social distancing, but the Home Office plans to revert to face-to-face events as soon as it is safe to do so. So far, the Home Office has held or attended over 30 events across the country since April 2019.

The department continues to work closely with stakeholders and partners trusted by the community to develop and deliver communications activity to raise awareness of the Windrush Taskforce and Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The events will be promoted using a range of methods, including adverts on social media and through trusted community networks. Details on the timings of online engagement events will be [available here](#).

The Home Office continues its work to right the wrongs experienced by the Windrush generation, which is shown by the fact that over 12,000 people have been provided with documentation confirming their status so far.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme also continues to make payments to compensate for those who suffered.

Citizens Advice, funded by the Home Office, are continuing to provide free, independent claimant assistance during the pandemic for those wishing to apply to the Compensation Scheme. This can be accessed by referral through the Windrush Helpline: 0800 678 1925.

As announced by the Home Secretary in March, the Home Office will shortly launch a separate £500k fund for grassroots organisations to promote the Windrush Schemes and provide advice services. We will work with stakeholders to co-design the fund.

The Wendy Williams Lessons Learned review was published in March 2020. The Home Secretary made clear in her statement to the House of Commons on the day of publication that the department will carefully consider the detail of the report and its recommendations to develop a comprehensive plan for changing the ways of working of the Home Office.

[New guidance on moving home](#)

Anyone in England can now move home as long as health guidance can be followed. This applies to both renters and buyers.

The law previously only allowed moving home if you had reasonable grounds for doing so at this time.

That restriction was necessary and appropriate at the time, but we are now able to change the rules so that people are free to start looking for a new home, and builders, developers and other property professionals are supported to return to work.

This can be done while minimising the risk of spreading the virus through continued observance of hygiene measures and social distancing.

The government has published [new guidance on moving home](#) which you are encouraged to read in full.

It is important that everyone knows how to stay alert, contain the virus and save lives. Our success containing the virus so far has been hard fought and hard won. We must proceed with the utmost care in the next phase, and avoid undoing what we have achieved.

One of the simplest steps you can take when moving home is to wash your hands frequently and wherever possible stay at least 2 metres apart from people who are not members of your household.

The process of finding and moving into a new home is likely to be different given the need to reduce spreading coronavirus.

This will include doing more of the process online, such as virtual initial viewings; vacating your current property whilst other people are shown around; and ensuring your property is thoroughly cleaned before someone else moves in.

Removal firms are able to operate, although they may need to adjust usual procedures in order to ensure moves happen as safely as possible.

Your legal representative should be able to carry out searches on your property online in order to progress your transaction and you can contact them to discuss likely timescales.

Your surveyor can undertake surveys of the property you wish to purchase, in line with health guidance. This includes surveyors only entering a property if members of the household are not showing symptoms of coronavirus or self-isolating.

We encourage all parties involved to be as flexible as possible and be prepared to reschedule moves if someone becomes ill with coronavirus or must self-isolate.

The government introduced a temporary ban on evictions last March and this remains in place.

Changes to the planning system

The government has announced a [number of changes to the planning system](#) to help support safe construction work.

Builders will also be allowed to agree more flexible construction site

working hours with their local council. This will make it easier to follow public health guidance onsite and stagger builders' arrival times, making public transport less busy and so reducing the risk of infection.

Additionally, new regulations will allow planning authorities and developers to publicise planning applications through social media instead of having to rely on posters and letters, helping unblock the service and allowing it to support new development.

The government is also providing local councils with more flexibility to support smaller developers by allowing them to defer Community Infrastructure Levy payments.

This will help smaller developers struggling with their cashflow due to the pandemic while ensuring communities still receive funding towards local infrastructure in the longer term.

Safe Working Charter

A new [Charter](#) has been launched by the government and the Home Builders Federation, helping construction sites reopen in line with health guidance.

Construction companies signing up to the Charter commit to returning to work safely, including working with their subcontractors to develop detailed safe working practices.

The Charter enables housebuilders to make a common commitment to operate in line with safe working guidance. This helps give confidence to employees working on sites, and comfort to the public that work is being undertaken safely.

Signatories to the Charter have publicly committed to safe working practices in accordance with Government and Construction Leadership Council guidance.

The Charter is for housebuilders of all size, including small and medium-sized enterprises.