

# East Coast Tidal Surge

## Flood Defence Consents

06 February 2014

## A guide to the Flood Defence Consent process

### Where is consent required?

Prior consent is legally required under the Water Resources Act (1991) and the Environment Agency Anglian Regional Byelaws and Coastal Byelaws.

This legislation requires consent to be sought for works:

- in, over and under a main river
- between the high water line and the secondary line of defence (earth embankment)
- within 9m of the landward toe of the flood defences or top of a river bank

If you have any doubts please contact us and we will confirm whether you require consent.

### What work requires consent?

Works that require consent include, but not limited to:

- removal of material from the toe or crest of the shingle ridge
- the need to drive piles or poles into the ground
- erection of fencing or other structures
- locating or relocating structures
- excavating material (permanent or temporary)
- raising or lowering of ground levels

If you are in any doubt please contact us to confirm whether you will require consent

### Timeframe for obtaining consent

We will endeavour to issue consent as quickly as is feasible and try to work within your timelines where possible. The Environment Agency has a maximum of two calendar months, from the date of receipt, to issue consent.

There are ways that you can help us speed up the process:

- submit the application forms electronically
- make it clear what, how and where you are doing works.
- submit the correct fee where applicable (£50 per structure)
- let us know now that you intend to submit an application

include photos which demonstrate the location and damages to be repaired

## How to apply for consent

You can obtain the Flood Defence Consent application forms by:

**Email:** PSO-Brampton@Environment-Agency.gov.uk

**Website:** www.environment-agency.gov.uk

**Post:** Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team, Environment Agency, Bromholme Lane, Huntingdon, PE28 4NE

**Phone:** 01480 483003

## The difference between Planning Permission and Flood Defence Consent

Flood Defence Consents are independent of planning permission. You will still require consent even if you have planning permission. Consents are concerned as much as to the 'how', as to the 'what' is being proposed. The method of construction is not covered in great detail within the planning application.

## What happens if you don't get consent?

The shingle ridge is highly susceptible to damage so we carry out regular inspections to ensure no unconsented works are being carried out that might impact the ridge. The Flood Defence Consenting process is an essential part of this as it allows us to monitor the impact of your repair works on the shingle ridge.

When unconsented works are found our personnel will halt all works until such time as it can be determined whether damage has been caused. If damage has been caused then we will either require the ridge to be repaired, at the cost of the owner, or we can reclaim from the owner the costs of putting things right and they could be prosecuted.

We are always happy to talk through your proposals before applying for consent and prior discussion often speeds up the processing of your application.

## Gaining Planning Permission within your area.

The coastal area between Wolferton Creek and Hunstanton is covered by a specific set of planning policies that determine what will and will not get planning permission.

We will only consent a proposal if it is in line with this coastal protocol so it is worth reviewing this document prior to submitting an application.

The coastal protocol can be found on the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk's Borough Councils website at:

[www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/Coastal%20Protocol%20Wolf%20to%20Huns%2001-09-10%20\(v7\)%20\(6\)%20FINAL%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/Coastal%20Protocol%20Wolf%20to%20Huns%2001-09-10%20(v7)%20(6)%20FINAL%20FINAL.pdf)

or Search for 'Coastal protocol Wolferton Creek to Hunstanton' in a web search engine.

Please contact us if you require an electronic copy.

The photographs below show (top) the damage caused to the embankment at Heacham and (bottom) the emergency repair works in progress (18 December 2013). The large exposed stone has since been covered with sand and shingle and compacted.



customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Figure1. Map showing the area where consent may be required



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