

[Press release: Call to sign up for flood warnings as up to 80% of Lincolnshire coastal communities yet to fully register](#)

The Environment Agency has today urged residents on the Lincolnshire coast to sign up for flood warnings, as its flagship £7m Lincolnshire coastal flood scheme wraps up for this year.

Over the course of the £7m Lincolnshire Beach Management (LBM) scheme, the EA's contractors pumped around 400,000 cubic metres of sand onto Lincolnshire's coastal beaches. This sand helps to protect people and their properties by reducing flood risk and damage to the sea defences along the coast. The added sand acts as a buffer between the sea and the defences, taking out the brunt of the wave energy, thereby extending the lifespan of the EA's defences.

Restoring sand levels that are naturally lost to the sea over the year helps the EA reduce flood risk to over 20,000 homes and businesses, 24,500 static caravans and 35,000 hectares of land.

But although the EA has staff working around the clock to protect people and their property from flooding, the risk of flooding can never be completely eliminated. That's why the EA is calling for residents in coastal communities to sign up for its free flood warning service.

The latest figures show that thousands of people who live in 'at risk communities' along the Lincolnshire coast are still yet to sign up – with the percentage of residents fully registered for warnings in key communities like Skegness as low as 22%.

Flood warnings give people valuable information and time to prepare for flooding, and the EA's free service enables residents to choose how they'd like to receive warnings and alerts. Although some residents will be enrolled automatically through their telephone provider, they can sign up fully by [online](#) or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188. People can also make a flood plan [here](#) so they know what to do to prepare, act and survive.

Mark Robinson, senior flood risk advisor for the Environment Agency, said:

The completion of our £7m LBM coastal flood scheme will help us continue to protect and reduce flood risk for tens of thousands of people and their properties. This scheme extends the life of our sea defences by protecting them from the energy of the waves as they impact on the coast.

Although we work around the clock to reduce flood risk to

Lincolnshire's coastal communities, the risk can never be completely eliminated. Our latest figures show that many people on Lincolnshire's coast are yet to sign up for flood warnings – warnings that could give them vital information and time to prepare and act for flooding.

We urge people in Lincolnshire's coastal communities to sign up to our free flood warning service now by visiting www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

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[News story: EU measures in response to US steel and aluminium tariffs](#)

In response to the US' imposition of an [increase in tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products](#) the EU is introducing rebalancing measures (also known as countermeasures) on a list of products originating in the US.

On 14 June 2018 EU Member States unanimously supported these countermeasures, which will enter into force on Friday 22 June. The full list of products which will be subject to rebalancing measures can be found on the [Commission's website](#).

The EU's rebalancing plans are a measured and proportionate response which the UK government supports.

Going forward we will continue to work closely with the Commission on the other strands of their response. We will maintain our dialogue with the Commission on the products listed, and we will also continue to seek a

constructive, permanent resolution with the US to avoid further escalation that would harm businesses and consumers in both the US and EU.

There are 2 lists of products to which rebalancing measures will be applied:

- Annex I, which sets out the products on which the EU will apply additional tariffs of 10% or 25% from 22 June 2018. This is in response to the US increase in tariffs of 25% on imports of certain steel products.
- Annex II, which sets out the products on which the EU will impose maximum tariffs of 10%, 25%, 35% or 50% from 1 June 2021 or after a successful WTO dispute, whichever is sooner. This is in response to the US increase in tariffs of 10% on imports of certain aluminium products and of 25% on imports of certain other steel products.

The Commission will initially be imposing rebalancing measures on the full list contained in Annex I. However, the US Department of Commerce is currently running a product exclusion process, where US importers can apply for specific products to be excluded from the tariffs. The Commission has said that it will reduce the countermeasures commensurately with any product exclusions.

The rebalancing measures will enter into force on 22 June, but under EU Implementing Regulation 2018/724 (Article 4), goods which have already exported from the US will not be caught by the new duties.

For imports into the UK and for the purpose of these rebalancing rates we consider the point of export to be the completion of export formalities followed by the leaving of the territorial waters of the US. It is that date that we will take into account when considering whether or not to apply the new duties. A proof such as the bill of lading, where the shipping date may be compared to the date of entry into force of the additional duties must be made available to the customs authorities on request.

We will continue to work closely with the EU Commission to ensure that UK Business interests are firmly represented. DIT, BEIS and HMRC met with UK businesses on 20 June to discuss matters further and will hold a second meeting on 25 June.

Open consultation: River basin planning: working together

The [current river basin management plans](#) were published in February 2016. The plans must be reviewed and updated every 6 years. The first consultation on updating the plans is the Working Together consultation.

The Working Together consultation seeks your views on:

- how other plans and strategies affect, or are affected by, the river basin management plans
- the proposed timetable and content of the work programme to review and update the river basin management plans
- whether all relevant stakeholders have been identified
- how people can get involved in the review and update of the river basin management plans

Find out more about river basin planning and future consultations on the [river basin management consultations webpage](#).

[News story: Space junk mission deploys from the International Space Station](#)

The RemoveDEBRIS mission, which is led by the University of Surrey, built by the world's leading small satellite manufacturer Surrey Satellite Technology Limited, and has technology on board designed by Airbus, is one of the world's first attempts to address the build-up of dangerous space debris orbiting Earth.

[RemoveDebris mission](#)

The RemoveDEBRIS mission will attempt to capture simulated space debris using a net and a harpoon while also testing advanced cameras and radar systems. Once those experiments are complete, it will unfurl a drag sail to bring itself and the debris out of orbit, where it will burn up as it enters the Earth's atmosphere.

The experiment is important as there are thousands of pieces of space debris circulating the planet – many travelling faster than a speeding bullet – posing a risk to valuable satellites and even the International Space Station itself.

Professor Guglielmo Aglietti, Director of the Surrey Space Centre at the University of Surrey and Principal Investigator for the mission, said:

“After almost 5 years of development, it is exciting to finally be in a position where we can test these extremely exciting technologies in the field. If successful, the technologies found in RemoveDEBRIS could be included in other missions in the very near future.”

Sir Martin Sweeting, Chief Executive of SSTL, said:

“SSTL's expertise in designing and building low cost, small satellite

missions has been fundamental to the success of RemoveDEBRIS, a landmark technology demonstrator for Active Debris Removal missions that will begin a new era of space junk clearance in Earth's orbit."

RemoveDEBRIS was launched on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft from Florida in April. The project is co-funded by the European Commission.