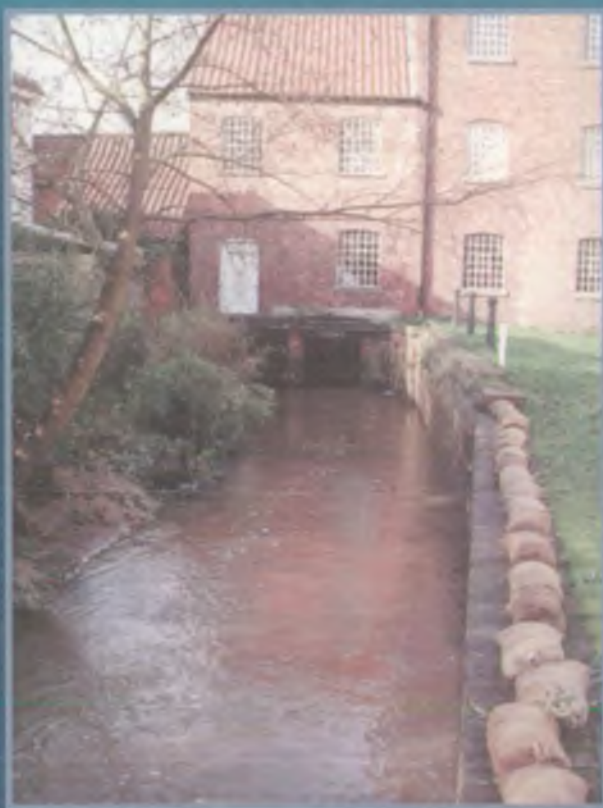


RIVER RASE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME



NOVEMBER 1999



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

RIVER RASE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The urban areas of Market Rasen and Middle Rasen have a history of flooding from the River Rase. Recent events include October 1993 and April 1981, when over 100 residential and commercial properties were affected.

Following the 1993 flooding the Environment Agency investigated a number of options for improving the flood defences to Market Rasen, Middle Rasen and West Rasen towards the target standard of a 1 in 75 year level of protection.

Options considered included maintaining the status quo, channel widening and/or deepening, floodwalls, flood storage areas and bypass channels.

A detailed technical, economic and environmental appraisal of all options concluded that the preferred option is the provision of flood storage areas upstream of Market Rasen.

A total of 12 alternative flood storage reservoir sites were considered from which the final two sites, one on the River Rase and one on the South Branch were selected.



The primary objective of the scheme is to control the quantities of floodwater in the urban areas of Market Rasen, Middle Rasen and West Rasen to within existing channel capacities. During times of flood this will be achieved by storing excess floodwater in each of the two new reservoirs and later releasing it at a controlled rate. In this manner, the risk of river flooding occurring in the urban areas will be reduced from the current level of 10% (1 in 10 years) to less than 2% (1 in 75 years).

During normal conditions the reservoirs will be in a 'dry' state except for localised wetland areas and pools which will be created to provide a diversity of habitats for environmental benefits.

The contract for the first phases of work, the River Rase Reservoir and the replacement golf holes, has been awarded to local contractor Fox Contracting (Owmbly) Ltd.

This work will commence in November 1999 and last for around six months.



The South Branch Reservoir will be constructed during Summer 2001 following establishment of the replacement golf holes. The scheme will be fully operational by Winter 2001.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is providing Grant Aid support to the Scheme of total estimated costs approaching £2million.

River Rase Flood Storage Reservoir

A reservoir of surface area 4.8 ha, situated immediately upstream of Market Rasen on land currently arable farmland, will hold up to 90,000m³ of floodwater. The reservoir with earth embankments will be constructed by excavating ground levels by up to 3m. Flood flows will be held back by a control structure gradually filling the reservoir as the flow increases. Once the flood has passed the water will gradually be released back into the river.

Under normal flow conditions the reservoir will have areas of shallow standing water, planted with reeds, etc. The remainder of the reservoir and the surrounding site will be planted with a mixture of grass and wild flowers.

South Branch Flood Storage Reservoir

A reservoir covering 10.8 ha will be constructed on land currently part of Market Rasen Golf Course. An earth embankment across the natural river valley will hold back floodwater, as governed by the control structure, up to a design volume of 110,000m³.

Three golf holes will be provided on land currently part of Willingham Woods forestry to replace those lost to the new reservoir.

Embankment material for the South Branch Reservoir will comprise surplus excavated material from the River Rase Reservoir site. Haulage of material via Walesby Road, Jameson Bridge Street, Willingham Road and Legsby Road is planned to take approximately 9 weeks to complete. The Agency regrets any inconvenience caused during this phase of the works.

CONSULTATION

In preparation of the scheme, the Agency prepared a full Environmental Statement and detailed proposals were available for public inspection. The Agency consulted landowners, county highways, conservation bodies and other interested parties and maintained close liaison with Market Rasen Town Council and Middle Rasen Parish Council.

Planning permission has been received from West Lindsey District Council.

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