



Hull Household Flooding Survey 2018

The University of Hull is working to help communities at risk of flooding locally, nationally and internationally.

Here in Hull, together with the Living with Water Partnership, we have been working to understand the long term impacts of the floods in 2007. This leaflet summarises the findings from our survey of households in 2018.



Living With Water, a partnership between Hull City Council, Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, aims to reduce the impacts of flooding and increase resilience in Hull and Haltemprice.

www.livingwithwater.co.uk

Between September and October 2018, 457 Householders were surveyed, mostly targeting three areas that were flooded in 2007 and which are close to planned flood alleviation projects. This was the first time that many people had been asked to share their experiences. We are really grateful that so many people gave so much of their time.

This map shows the main areas targeted by the survey



Impacts of the 2007 floods

The survey results outline the traumatic consequences of the 2007 floods, including the extent of flooding and health and wellbeing impacts. Of the 457 respondents:



33% said flooding damaged their house

25% 

said flooding disrupted essential travel

24% 

of respondents had their work disrupted



20%

had to evacuate their house



12%


were evacuated for over 6 months



18%

said the flooding affected their financial situation

Health and wellbeing impacts



20% said the flooding affected their/a household member's health and wellbeing

Of the respondents who reported effects on their household's health and wellbeing:

82% reported mental health consequences



37% reported physical health consequences

90% of people reporting health and wellbeing impacts had flood damage to their house

One resident's description was typical:

“having to deal with a loss adjuster who argued with me every step of the way... left me upset and with no savings.

I had to live upstairs in my home ... (I) spent many months angry and tearful.”

Many respondents described that flooding caused stress, anxiety or depression for them or their families and in some cases made existing health conditions worse.

The key words used in the responses are highlighted in this word cloud:

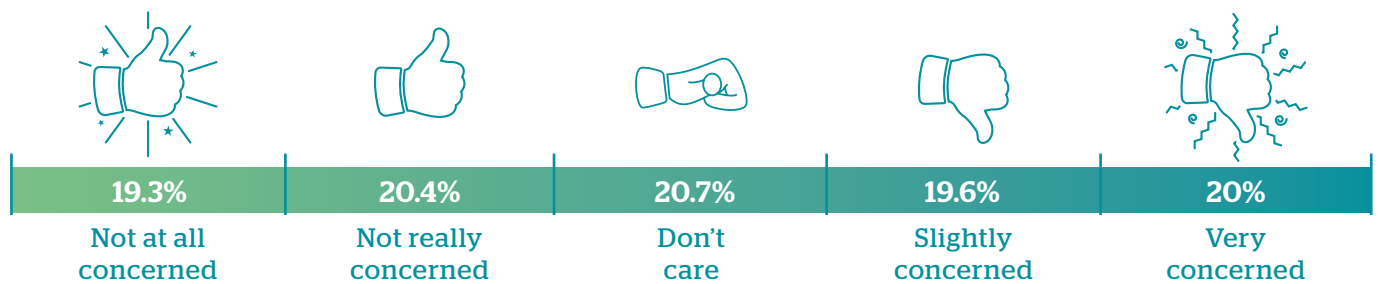
Stress Moving Caravan
 Family Dirty Breathing Depression
 House Work Felt Flood Coping Time
 Affected Pets Life Water Things
 Damage Constant Dealing Hospital
 Allergy Disrupted
 Difficult Fix Suffered
 Garden Life Ill Moving
 Nerves Disability Angry Anxiety
 Caused Severe Mental
 Condition Flooring
 Bad Death Medication Dealing Loss
 Broke Rains
 Insurance


What was the worst part of the 2007 floods?

Respondents described the damage caused, helplessness and difficulties recovering, with key words used by respondents shown in this word cloud:

Water Everything Hull Communities Watching Prevented Disruption
 Stressful Car Repairs Living Yorkshire Water Cold Unable Help Worried Upset
 Children Builders Conflict Caused Affected Council Possessions Smell
 House Work Shock Floor Months Dealing Costs Pets
 Drainage Life Uncertainty Sewage Waiting
 Destroyed Roads Drying Garden Move Flooded Insurance
 Leaving Problems Loss Money Health Isolated Neighbours Damage

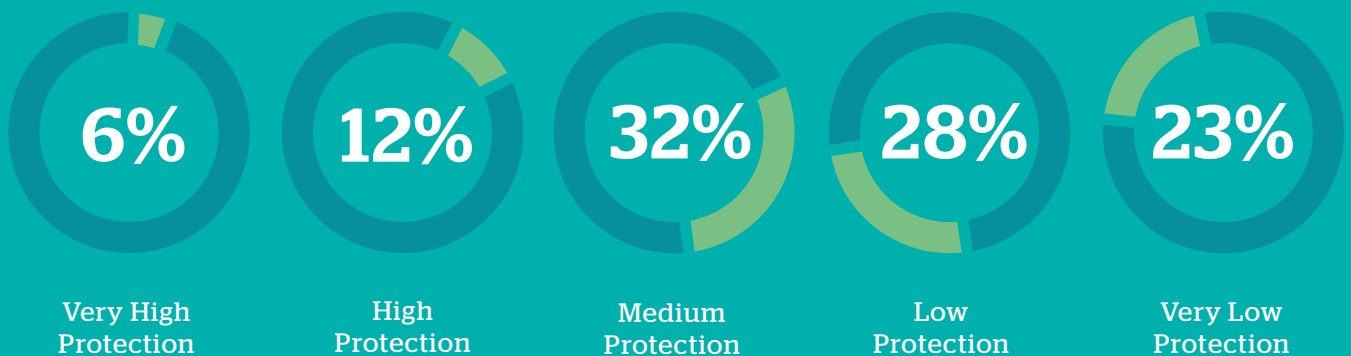
What people think about flooding now



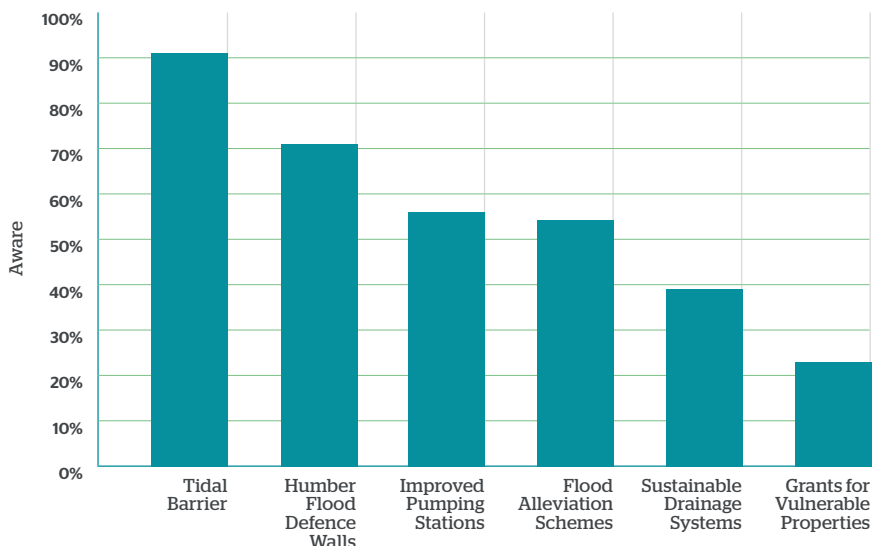
25%  Feel they would make a very slow recovery if they were flooded

Some of the people most concerned about flooding said they were very fearful whenever it rains heavily and are not sure they would recover as well as they did in 2007.

Respondents told us how well they thought their house was protected against flooding...



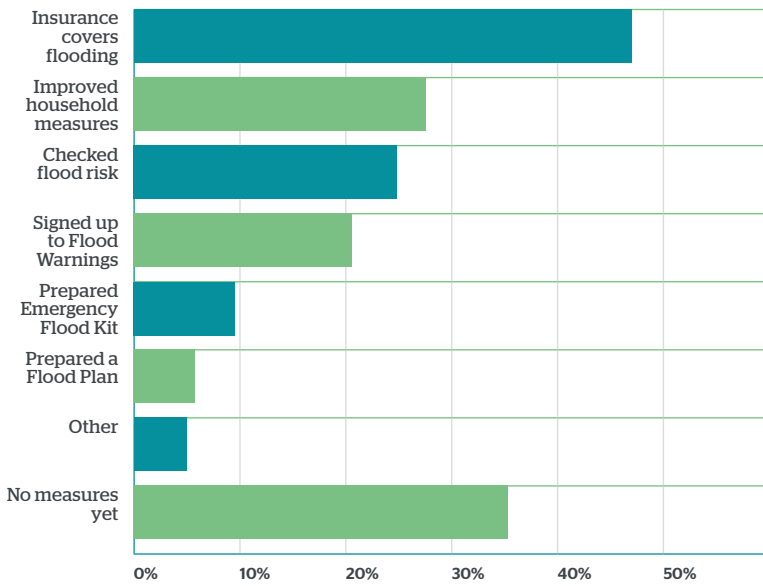
Awareness of city-wide flood protection schemes.



Although some residents remained concerned about flooding, others felt more positively:

“ Now some time has passed I don't feel so worried every time there is heavy rainfall. It does help to know that there have been flood alleviation schemes in the area but it still bothers me that it could happen again. ”

Measures taken by householders to increase flood resilience



Priorities for respondents



Managing drainage

Respondents want to see action including clearing street drains, improving drains in 'ten-foots', maintaining dykes and ditches, and improving the capacity of pumping stations. Many residents are also concerned about new building on greenspace and people turning gardens into driveways.



Someone to talk to

Respondents felt that the Council should provide a dedicated staff member who can offer support and advice on how to prepare for flooding and to listen to residents' concerns.



Advice and support

Many respondents felt the measures they had implemented were not significant and wanted more advice about flood protection measures and household improvements, as well as support with getting affordable insurance.

Many respondents also want better flood warnings for heavy rain/ surface water flooding. Environment Agency warnings don't include flooding from surface water.

Improved household measures:

51 people

Moved valuables to a safe place



34 people

Increased planting and gardening



25 people

Stored temporary flood barriers



20 people

Flood proofed air bricks



7 people

Raised electric sockets



6 people

Flood proofed doors and windows



The University of Hull and Living with Water would like to thank all people who took part in this survey, sharing your experience will help us with our planning for the future. If you think of anything that you may not have mentioned, but you think is helpful, please do contact us via our website link: www.livingwithwater.co.uk



Hull City Council's Flood Risk Officer is available on Friday mornings for advice and support on: **01482 612394** or **flood.risk@hullcc.gov.uk**

Further information

If you have any questions about the survey or would like a copy of the full report please contact:

Sam Ramsden, Energy & Environment Institute, University of Hull

floodsurvey@hull.ac.uk | 01482 465583 | www.hull.ac.uk/eei